

Knoller may again face prison
In surprise decision, state appeals
court reinstates murder conviction.

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Double defeat for fundies
State Assembly, Senate panels
quash gay marriage bans.

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'L' for love story
Unlikely lesbian lovers in
'Girl Play' at the Roxie.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Natali talks with the B.A.R.

by Matthew S. Bajko

Les Natali, the embattled Castro bar owner fighting charges that he is racist, maintains he is innocent and slammed the city's Human Rights Commission for what he said was a biased investigation into claims he discriminates against African Americans.

"I am very upset about the accusations. They still are accusations. I have not been given my due process rights," said Natali in an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, May 9. "I really resent how they made their findings in such a way that gives the impression what they say is true. I have not engaged in racial discrimination nor have I given instructions to my staff to discriminate."

Seated at the bar of San Francisco Badlands, the Castro nightclub protesters have picketed the last two Saturday nights, a visibly frustrated Natali spoke at length for the first time since the HRC released its findings Tuesday, April 27. In its 21-page report, the HRC staff found that Natali violated city codes by asking black patrons for two forms of ID, used a "no bag policy" to keep blacks out of his bar and referred to African Americans as "non-Badlands customers."

Natali filed an appeal of the report Tuesday, May 10, requesting that HRC Executive Director Virginia Harmon "immediately and publicly" withdraw her agency's findings. Natali's attorney Barry Strike, with the law firm Hinman and Carmichael, stated in a letter to Harmon that the HRC's findings are "legally improper and damaging to Mr. Natali's reputation and standing in the community."

Natali's lawyers have repeatedly said the process was unfair to Natali, who did not have a chance to rebut his accusers. On Monday, Natali repeated those criticisms, adding his accusers' testimony would not hold up in a court of law.

"I have not been given the right to cross-examine or interview the complainants," he said. "There has been no judicial hearing where I was found to violate any ordinance or anyone's rights."

In an e-mail Julius Turman, the lawyer for the complainants, who have assumed the moniker And Castro For All, dismissed the appeal as more "whining" from Natali. He crit-

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Reports of gay sperm ban oversimplified

by Zak Szymanski

A recent Associated Press news story about a federal ban on gay sperm donors sent some LGBT community members into a panic and left others scratching their heads about why the story was released as written.

Last week's widely circulated article, "FDA to Ban Gay Sperm Donors," caused unnecessary worry, according to Bay Area sperm bank directors, who said they would continue to accept sperm from men who have sex with men. Furthermore, the news story was based on a year-old press release issued last May to announce the FDA's updated rules for donor screening, which go into effect later this month.

"There's been nothing new since then," said Leland Traiman, director of Rainbow Flag Health Services in Alameda, referencing the FDA donor screening regulations that were published last year. "And the AP news story makes it look like we lost. The bottom line is that we won."

Last year's regulations – published after years of debate around banning gay sperm – mandate proper screening techniques for anonymous sperm donors, such as testing them for HIV and other communicable diseases.

But in what Traiman calls "a victory," the



Rainbow Flag Sperm Bank director Leland Traiman stands in front of photos of babies born to his clients.

regulations actually do not specifically ban men who have sex with men from donating sperm anonymously. Furthermore, the FDA backed off its previous attempts to ban gay men from being "directed donors" – men specifically chosen as donors by women who know them.

What has been called a gay sperm ban is actually a separate FDA document containing guidelines for enforcing the regulations. These guidelines simply recommend excluding anonymous donations from men who have had sex with men within the last five years.

"The guidelines have no force of law. And

changed," said Alice Ruby, executive director of the Sperm Bank of California. "The vast majority of U.S. sperm banks do not take gay donors right now. There are two pieces to the regulations: the actual regulation, which doesn't mention gay men at all and requires that potential donors be screened for HIV and increased risk of HIV, and we do that now. Then there is the FDA guidance, which mentions that one way to screen for increased HIV risk is to exclude men who have had sex with men within the last five years. That document doesn't have the force of law."

Ruby added that all of her bank's donors

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Filipino Task Force on AIDS to close its doors

by Zak Szymanski

The Filipino Task Force on AIDS will be closing its doors at the end of June and its executive director is searching for bankruptcy lawyers with an eye to terminate the organization.

FTFA – charged with providing culturally-sensitive, ethnic-specific, prevention programs and support services to Filipinos living with HIV/AIDS – has struggled financially for years, with losses reported as far back as fiscal year 2001. According to the most recent available 990 forms filed with the IRS, the organization saw a loss of about \$10,000 from July 2000-June 2001, and an additional loss of \$73,433 from July 2001-June 2002.

But FTFA Executive Director Efen Bose said that the agency's problems were much worse than he realized when he took over as interim executive director in October 2004, and that it wasn't until a meeting with the San Francisco Health Commission later that month that he was told that FTFA had not been paying its payroll taxes.

"It was a shock to me," Bose told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that he had relied on his organization's own poorly kept records to assess FTFA's situation. Bose said upon hearing the news he began negotiating with the

IRS to set up a payment plan. But when a financial consultant came in November to help FTFA with its records, "she was amazed," said Bose. "There was no way to tell how much money we actually had. For four to five years the records were completely messed up and there was no way to figure out what was going on."

Although FTFA board President Bennie Ferma said that the outstanding payroll taxes total about \$15,000, the organization could not get on its feet in time to renew its contract with the Department of Public Health, which accounts for about \$128,000 of FTFA's \$150,000 budget.

Once the situation became clear, said Bose, he realized there was no way out of the mountain of red ink. Rather than offer the executive director position to an unsuspecting outside candidate, Bose said he decided to take the position permanently in March in order to see it through to the end.



Efen A. Bose, executive director of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS

believes that DPH and the HIV/AIDS community could have done more to assist the organization.

"DPH was supposed to provide us with support and technical assistance, but we had a very contentious relationship; every time they called it was to chew me out for things that were way beyond my control," said Bose.

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HIV names reporting bill stalls in CA Senate

by Matthew S. Bajko

A bill that would require the state to report HIV cases by name is stalled in a state Senate committee after the chair of the LGBT caucus expressed opposition to the bill. State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) raised concerns about the bill when it came before the Senate's Judiciary Committee Tuesday, May 3.

State Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona) introduced the bill, SB945, at the urging of Los Angeles health officials and AIDS advocates who fear if California does not scrap its current code-based HIV reporting system it will lose out in millions of federal AIDS funds.

Soto's bill would allow the confidential reporting of HIV infection by health care providers and labs by the name of the patient to local health officials and the state Department of Health Services. The Senate Health Committee had approved the bill in a 6-4 vote in late April, and last week the *Los Angeles Times* endorsed the measure in a strongly worded editorial.

While cases of AIDS have been reported by name since the beginning of the epidemic, the state of California has required local health officials to report HIV cases only since July 2002, which they've done via a code-based system. AIDS advocates pushed for the unique identifier approach due to privacy concerns and fears people would not get tested for HIV if a positive result meant their names would be given to the government.

The issue of changing how HIV cases are reported is being driven by the reauthorization this year of the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds AIDS services across the country. Although federal lawmakers have yet to take up the legislation, AIDS advocates are watching the bill closely. Some expect Congress will insert into the act a requirement that states use a name-based reporting system in order to receive funding.

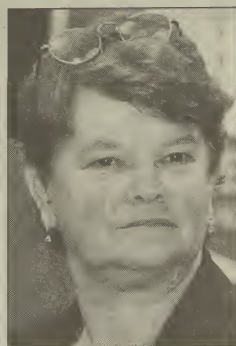
As required by the reauthorization of the CARE Act in 2000, the federal government in October 2006 will begin to allocate HIV/AIDS funds to state and local governments based on the number of HIV cases reported. Due to that shift, numerous states have already gone to a names-based reporting system.

Divisive issue

But California remains a hold-out and the issue is a divisive one, splitting various AIDS agencies and health officials into differing camps. L.A. health officials and leaders of some Southland AIDS agencies, led by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, back the change saying the current system is inaccurate, cumbersome and costly. They also predict that California stands to suffer further hits to its HIV funding if the state persists with a code-based system.

Yet agencies like the San Francisco AIDS Foundation argue there is no need to change course. They favor the code-based system and fear a names-based system would result in fewer people being willing to get tested for HIV.

Adding to the fight is the re-



State Senator Sheila Kuehl

fusal so far of federal health officials to certify the state's code-based system. Instead, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made it clear they favor names-based reporting. For that reason, proponents of Soto's bill argue that the state needs to scrap its code-based reporting system to ensure it receives its fair share in federal HIV funds.

But Kuehl told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that she remains unconvinced by those AIDS advocates pushing for the reporting system change.

"First of all, I did not believe that any advocates for the bill made the case that we need to change our system now. There is no information that California is losing any funding," said Kuehl. "My resistance is in rushing to make this change in a way that seems to help the Bush administration because they will be able to say 'Look, California agrees with us.' So my preference is to wait to see the reauthorization language and to continue to make the argument that there is no need to go to names reporting for HIV cases."

As a result of Kuehl's opposition, the judiciary committee failed to vote on the bill, which remains in limbo. It could be voted on again later this summer after the federal Ryan White CARE Act is introduced in Congress.

"It is premature to say. The bill could still move forward this year," said David Miller, Soto's press secretary, when asked if the bill is now dead for this session. "The big issue involved in the legislation is the Ryan White CARE Act funding. The committee decided to hold onto the bill until we can get some clarification on whether California faces a loss of this funding source."

After the committee's inaction on the bill, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation released a statement expressing its "profound disappointment" with the senators for failing to move SB945 forward.

"We are deeply saddened that the committee did not seriously grasp the risk of losing millions of dollars in federal HIV/AIDS funding for care and services in California," said AHF President Michael Weinstein. "We are disappointed that the committee seemed to defer to perceived, but unfounded, speculation regarding the potential for compromises to confidentiality. Sadly, this inaction by the committee has now trumped the real loss of federal funding for HIV/AIDS care and treatment in California — a move which will likely now jeopardize

up to \$50 million annually in federal Ryan White funding to the state."

AHF called on Kuehl to immediately begin work backfilling California's "loss of millions of dollars" in federal HIV/AIDS funding over the past three years as a "result of serious undercounting of HIV cases in the state due to the serious flaws in California's current code-based reporting system."

Kuehl said she was "quite surprised" to see AHF make such a claim in its press release. She added that she finds their claims about lost funding dubious.

"We have had two meetings and they have testified for the bill and in none of those instances did they bring up any evidence that California had lost a penny," said Kuehl. "What they are claiming is that if the Ryan White Act is reauthorized and requires names reporting for HIV cases we could lose funding. That is a very different matter from claiming we need to make this change now," she said.

As for AHF's claims that the CDC is not counting the state's HIV reports, Kuehl suggested the real problem seems to be with Los Angeles health officials.

"L.A. county is far behind in its reporting because of its own ineptness at collecting the information. So again, it was not clear to me there is any current problem and when you balance that against concerns that were expressed about reluctance to test and fear of disclosure and demonization, I believe this was not the time to cave in and go to names reporting," she said.

As for AHF's attacks on the LGBT Legislative Caucus, Kuehl said none of the people pushing for the reporting change had approached the caucus for its support until after the bill had been introduced.

"It would be much more helpful for us if the state director of AIDS and county officials who have jumped on this bill would have communicated with our caucus about the real concerns they have. It was very difficult for us to take them seriously when we never heard a peep from them before about this concern," she said.

Those agencies fighting to keep the code-based system praised Kuehl and the LGBT caucus for opposing SB945. Quinn Callicott, president of the board of directors of L.A.-based Being Alive, said that the creation of a government registry with the names, Social Security numbers, and other identifying information of people living with HIV disease is an unacceptable invasion of privacy that could lead to further stigmatization.

"This bill would have a severe chilling effect on access to services for already disenfranchised and unduly impacted communities such as gay men of color and undocumented immigrants," he said.

Being Alive Executive Director Demetri Moshoyannis added that his agency does not believe that the best way to ensure continued federal funding is by collecting statewide data at the expense of the patients.

"It's like saying that the best way to balance the federal budget is by raising taxes on the working poor. It's unfair and doesn't make

GLAAD under pressure to move awards event

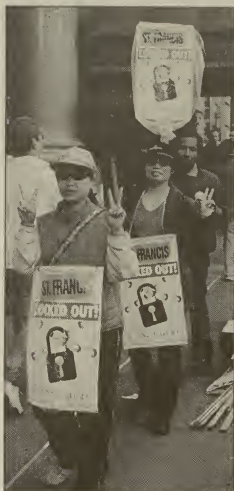
by Matthew S. Bajko

The ongoing labor dispute between 14 hotels and members of the union Unite Here Local 2 is now engulfing one of the country's most visible gay advocacy groups. A growing list of local LGBT community members is asking GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, to move its media awards in June due to the labor strife.

GLAAD's event is usually held at the Westin St. Francis, but the hotel is among those being boycotted by a host of local politicians, including Mayor Gavin Newsom, as well as numerous individuals, organizations, and professional groups. Several large conventions have canceled their plans due to the boycott and others refuse to frequent the hotels as a sign of solidarity with the union workers.

The labor dispute goes back to last fall when 4,300 members of the hotel workers union staged a two-week strike. In retaliation, the St. Francis and 13 other Multi-Employer Group Hotels locked out their employees for six weeks. It was not until intervention by Newsom, who walked the picket line at one point, that the two sides agreed to a "cooling off" period.

But negotiators have not met since February 14 when the union



Locked out hotel workers from Local 2 picket the Westin St. Francis last November; a deal with management has proven elusive so far.

last presented a proposal. Frustrated at what they see as foot-dragging by the hotels, the union staged a sit-in in the lobby of the San Francisco Hilton on May 3. Another 400 people stood outside the hotel chanting "shame on you" to Hilton guests.

The latest target is now GLAAD, which will hold its 16th media awards at the Union Square hotel on Saturday, June 11. LGBT activists are pressuring the gay advocacy organization to relocate the event.

In a letter sent this month to Peter Zalabak, GLAAD associate director of special events, the activists ask the organization to help the hotel employees and the community of San Francisco in their struggle by sending a message to the Starwood Corporation and the other hotel owners.

The letter states in part that, "When you move the annual media awards from the boycotted hotels, you help bring the hotel employees one step closer to settling this labor dispute. When groups move their meetings, it shows Starwood and the other hotel corporations that the struggle of the hotel workers extends beyond our union, and that groups like yours do believe in justice."

The letter also contends that GLAAD can play an instrumental role in ending the bitter contract negotiations. It concludes, "On behalf of all San Francisco hotel workers and their families, please stand in solidarity with us and move your convention out of the St. Francis and into a non-boycotted hotel."

In response, GLAAD sent a letter

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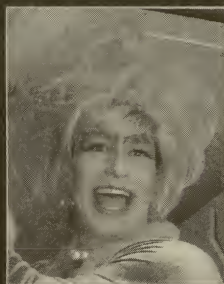
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AIDS Candlelight Vigil Sun.

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Community activists will come together in San Francisco on Sunday, May 15 for the 20th annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil, and interested people are welcome to participate as the march kicks off at Market and Castro streets at 8 p.m.

Confirmed speakers include HIV-positive youth activist and peer educator Devin Anderson, HIV Stops With me spokesman Alejandro Diesta, and international AIDS activist Anne-christine D'Adesky.

Organizers recognized Anderson, D'Adesky, and several others as this year's "AIDS Heroes" at an awards ceremony May 5. The other honorees are: Misha Cohen, a doctor of oriental medicine and chair of the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center; Leslie Ewing, a longtime AIDS advocate and director of Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services; HIV health educator and Latino activist Gustavo Cravito; Homer Hobi, founder of the Recycled AIDS Medicine Program; Omar Kubian, a registered nurse at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco; longtime AIDS activist Rick Solomon; and Ed Wolf, a former Shanti volunteer and current staff member at the AIDS Health Project, where he is developing protocols for the new rapid HIV test.

Similar AIDS vigils will take place in an estimated 4,500 communities around the world. San Francisco's event is the oldest and largest; it is held to honor those who have died and those still living with HIV/AIDS.

Prior to Sunday's vigil, organizers will host a "Spunk-o-Rama" benefit at the Edge bar, 18th Street and Collingwood, from 4 to 7 p.m. The beer benefit costs \$7 and there will be a "porn-a-copia" raffle with tickets selling for \$2 each.

Wine tastings at Under One Roof

Under One Roof will begin hosting free, periodic wine tastings on Friday evenings at its store located at 549 Castro Street in San Francisco. The first event takes place Friday, May 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and will feature four wines from Terra Andina, a Chilean winery.

"Our goal is to make the Castro a destination shopping location for a broader spectrum of San Franciscans," said Mike Marshall, executive director. He said he hoped the event would generate increased foot traffic and sales at Under One Roof, which sells merchandise on behalf of 35 Bay Area AIDS service organizations.

"Our goal is that people planning on meeting friends for dinner will consider meeting up at Under One Roof, sample some of the terrific wines we will be featuring, and engage in a little 'retail therapy' at the end of a busy week," said Marshall.

Board member Eric Smith, president of Artemis Wines, which distributes Terra Andina, will be on hand to discuss the wines.

IGLHRC benefit Monday

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission founder Julie Dorf will receive the aptly named Founder's Award at the organization's "A Celebration of Courage" benefit Monday, May 16. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street, in San Francisco. Also being honored is the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, which will receive the Felipa de Souza Award, and Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and United Nations high commissioner for human rights.

Monday's event marks the 15th anniversary of IGLHRC, which focuses on human rights abuses of LGBTs around the world.

Tickets start at \$125 per person. For more information, visit iglhc.org.

Barebacking forum for HIVers

Magnet, the gay men's health clinic in the Castro, is hosting a community forum for HIV-positive men to talk about barebacking, superinfection, and serosorting. The forum takes place Tuesday, May 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Magnet, 4122 18th Street, in San Francisco.

For more information, contact Kevin Roe at (415) 581-1605 or e-mail Kevin@magnetsf.org. For more information on Magnet, visit www.magnetsf.org.

Reception for bathhouse researchers

The GLBT Historical Society invites the public to meet contributors to *Gay Bathhouses and Public Health Policy*, a new anthology from Harrington Park Press. The event takes place Thursday, May 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 657 Mission Street, third floor, in San Francisco. The reception is free and refreshments will be provided.

Gay Bathhouses and Public Health Policy explores issues related to civil liberties, the politics of public sex, and HIV prevention policies. Editors William J. Woods and Diane Binson will take part in next week's event. Both are assistant adjunct professors in the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Woods has published articles related to bathhouses and HIV prevention. Binson's research focuses on HIV risk and sexual behavior among gay men.

The event also will feature tours of the historical society's archives, including artifacts saved from old bathhouses and gay sex clubs.

For more information, call (415) 777-5455 or visit www.glbthistory.org.

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Pendulum bar being sued

by Ed Walsh

A San Francisco man has filed a lawsuit against the Pendulum bar in the Castro alleging that its doorman assaulted him last summer after he accidentally knocked over an ashtray in front of the bar.

Attorney Boone Callaway filed

the suit last week on behalf of Roman Esser, 42. The alleged assault took place on August 4, 2004. The suit claims that the bar's bouncer pursued Esser across 18th Street to Cala Foods after Esser knocked over an ashtray. After an argument, the doorman suddenly hit Esser on the shoulder with an object he was holding, the suit alleges. Esser said that the ob-

ject the doorman used to hit him with was a large stick or flashlight.

The suit was filed against SF Pendulum Inc., the corporation the formally owns the bar. Well-known businessman Les Natali recently bought the Pendulum with a partner and is the majority shareholder owner in SF Pendulum Inc., according Paul Melbostad, Natali's attorney. Melbostad said that neither he nor Natali had been served with the lawsuit so he could not comment on the claim.

Natali also owns Badlands bar, across the street from the Pendulum, and has had to defend himself recently from charges of alleged racist practices at the bar. He has denied the allegations.

Callaway said that while there are likely to be conflicting stories about how the incident started, "There is no way the Pendulum's doorman was justified in crossing two streets to beat up someone who was no longer even near the bar's premises."

Callaway said that after the alleged assault, Esser was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, "where he was treated for a badly broken collarbone, which still has not healed."

The suit claims damages, including "mental pain and suffering," in excess of \$25,000. ▼

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Araujo retrial begins

by Zak Szymanski

The second trial for the three young men accused of murdering East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo began on Monday, May 9, with jury selection under way in the Hayward Hall of Justice.

Michael Magidson, 24, and Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 25, face first-degree murder charges for their role in killing Araujo during a house party in Newark in October 2002. Their original trial ended last June with a hung jury after nine days of deliberations.

A fourth man, Jaron Nabors, 22, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and received an 11-year prison sentence in exchange for testimony against his friends.

Araujo, 17, was born as a male named Eddie but lived as a woman since the age of 14. She befriended the defendants in the summer of 2002 and reportedly engaged in sexual relations with two of the men over the course of several weeks. The defendants had many speculative conversations about Araujo's gender, according to previous trial testimony, and on the night in question decided to confront her by demanding to see her genitals. Araujo was beaten, kicked, hit in the head with a frying pan, strangled, and then tied up while the men reportedly made trips for shovels to bury her and cleaned the blood stains from the home. Her body was driven to the Sierra Foothills and exhumed by police several days later.

It is difficult to determine what will be different about the trial this time around. Judge Harry Sheppard will remain on the bench, and the case will also see



From left, defendants Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares at last year's trial.

the return of Tony Serra and Michael Thorman, attorneys for Cazares and Magidson, respectively. New to this trial is William Du Bois, the attorney who took on Merel's defense after Jack Noonan left the case last year. Also new is a gag order imposed by Sheppard to prevent attorneys, defendants, and witnesses from speaking to the media about the case.

"I know the gag order is something that Gwen's family wanted, and I'm happy the judge respected that," said Chris Daley of San Francisco's Transgender Law Center. "I am hopeful that it is going to reduce the amount of really negative messages out there and prevent the attorneys from making some of the really out of bounds remarks that found a place in the media last year."

Both Serra and Thorman spoke frequently to the press last year, often vilifying Araujo as a "sexually deceptive" predator who "stole" the defendants' heterosex-

uality by living as a woman. Interestingly, it was Magidson – the client of the most publicly transphobic attorney – who received the most juror votes in favor of a first-degree murder conviction.

Prosecutor Chris Lamiero has maintained that jurors agreed that the crime against Araujo was murder, and were hung up only on whether the murder was premeditated. If defense attorneys recognize that their transphobic strategies did not work as well as planned, they may switch strategies, or they could step up the transphobia even more.

"We are definitely concerned about what we expect the defense attorneys to do. The expectation from us is that they're going to come out and put Gwen on trial even more so than they did last year," said Daley.

Defense attorneys tended to refer to Araujo by female pronouns last year, but this time "they

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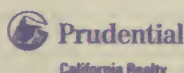
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Cynthia Laird

ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

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Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter
Aaron J. Cohen • Kevin Davis • Mark des Jardins
Richard Dods • Tyson Gillfillan • David Guarino
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National Gay Newspaper Guild



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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Bring in Hammer

Former San Francisco prosecutor Jim Hammer knows the infamous dog mauling case better than anyone. And in light of recent developments, District Attorney Kamala Harris should rehire him to take on the case now that the DA's office will be involved once again. For his part, Hammer would like to finish the job.

Some background: Hammer was assigned the case early on after the deadly attack on Diane Whipple in January 2001. He saw the case through to its conclusion, when a jury in March 2002 convicted Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel on all counts, including the second-degree murder conviction for Knoller. Judge James Warren, however, threw out Knoller's murder conviction at the sentencing hearing, instead finding her guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

In a stunning reversal last week, however, a state appeals court reinstated Knoller's second-degree murder conviction and ordered Judge Warren to hold a hearing to reconsider the case. It is possible that Knoller, who is currently on parole in Florida, could be sent back to prison.

Since the original trial, much has changed. Hammer and former prosecutor Kimberly Guilfoyle, who was also deeply involved in the case and served as second chair during the trial, have moved on in their careers and are no longer with the San Francisco District Attorney's office. In fact, since the case was tried, Harris has been elected DA, by defeating former DA Terence Hallinan, whom Hammer and Guilfoyle had strongly supported. Shortly after Harris took over as the city's top law enforcement official, Hammer resigned, which was not surprising since a new DA is naturally expected to make personnel changes. Hammer had been in charge of the homicide unit; and no one could fault Harris for wanting to fill such a high-profile position with a member of her own management team. There were no hard feelings, at least not publicly. Last year Hammer told us that he understood and respected Harris's decision to bring in another prosecutor to head up homicide.

The recent appeals court decision, though, leaves the DA's office without the two prosecutors who know the case best. Additionally, Sharon Smith, Whipple's partner at the time of the attack, has a great deal of respect and admiration for Hammer, who is also openly gay.

"I remember when Sharon Smith was here, and she seemed mistrustful of the system, and wondering if we would go after those guys [Knoller and Noel]," Hammer told us last year. "She was so upset, and when I came out to her - I will never forget that moment that I was able to say, 'I get it.' It changed everything."

While last week's decision caught everyone by surprise (it's rare that judges overturn decisions by fellow judges), it is obvious to us that Hammer is the most qualified person to represent the city in this case. This

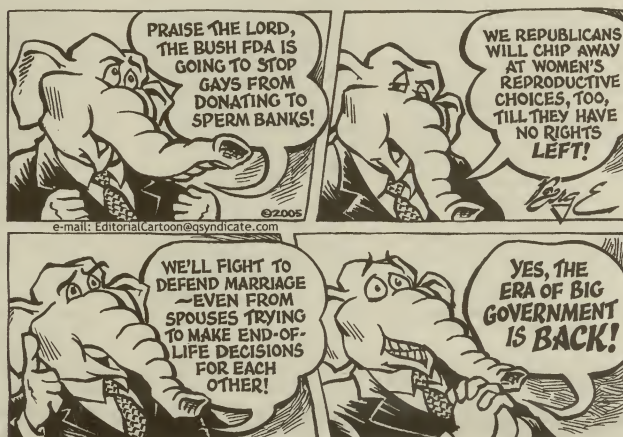
week, however, there seemed to be mixed signals coming from Harris. Her office issued a statement saying she understands Hammer's "request to come back for final resolution on this case." But Harris stopped short of granting Hammer's request. Instead, she said that Allison Garbutt, who supported the prosecution team with legal research during the 2002 trial, had been assigned to the case and that "all options will be carefully considered..." While bringing

Garbutt in is a good first move and we're confident she is familiar with the case, it's not the same as bringing in the assistant district attorney who had argued the case before the jury - and most importantly, won the murder conviction against Knoller.

We urge District Attorney Harris to put politics and past campaigns aside and bring in Jim Hammer to finish the job. ▼



Editorial



Apartheid Pride? No thanks!

by Daniel Ward and Kate Raphael

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors last week voted to endorse World Pride Jerusalem. Thus, the board has effectively taken sides in an international conflict of fundamental importance to people of our community. Where was public comment?

Queer people from around the world have been invited to lend our endorsement of and moral support to the dispossession and disappearance of an entire people, the Palestinian people. Well-intentioned people of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer communities are invited to cross an international picket line. We are asked to journey to Jerusalem in August for World Pride 2005 to celebrate in a march whose theme is "Love Without Borders." What is not said is that the march is taking place in a city that has a 25-foot concrete wall running through its center. LGBTIQ people are asked to break a boycott called because Jerusalem is occupied in violation of the same international laws that condemn the occupation of Iraq by the United States and Great Britain.

Palestinian queers who live just 10 minutes away from where this march begins will be stopped at military checkpoints from joining this celebration. They will not be allowed to participate in a festival in the city in which many of their parents were born. LGBTIQ people are invited to celebrate Pride in Jerusalem unless we are Muslim, or unless we are from the Middle East, because most people in the Middle East are automatically excluded from Israel.

In a moment of ecumenical hatred Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious leaders have come together to denounce a queer event being held in a Jerusalem they claim as sacred. Here in the United States we are not unfamiliar with religious bigots. They

occupy the highest and the lowest posts of government. Hatemongers persecute us as queers because we live and love and are fabulous. They dance on the graves of our loved ones murdered by their holy hatred. Every day they attempt to exorcise us from this world. And every day we resist they fail. The struggle for queer liberation has given the world instances of marvel and beauty.

It is a terrible thing to see the results of our beautiful struggle stolen and sullied and used to justify the oppression of all Palestinians, queer and straight, for the simple fact of living and loving and being fabulous as Palestinians. It is claimed that Israel is the only place in the Middle East where it is okay to be queer, with the implication that straight Arabs are somehow more homophobic than everybody else in this world. Neither Gwen Araujo nor Matthew Shepard ever set foot in the Middle East.

Straight people hate us here and everywhere with a murderous equality. The government of Israel is not building a wall around an entire country because it is attempting to create a queer safe space. It is stealing huge sections of land.

We live in a troubled world. Words like genocide and ethnic cleansing are used far too often for decent people to like. For those of us who strive for social justice, victories can sometimes seem few and far between. At the same time the state of Israel was being created by forcibly expelling 700,000 Palestinians and by confiscating Palestinian land, the white-supremacist National Party was coming to power in South Africa. The decades-long struggle for the liberation of South Africa is one of those moments of victory. The campaign to divest from and boycott of apartheid South Africa was a unifying factor for people around the globe. Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela have

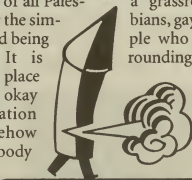
said that Israeli apartheid is similar to, and in some ways more oppressive than, apartheid South Africa. In Israel, a group of academics have joined the call to boycott. Allow us to remind you that the divestment movement against South Africa's apartheid started precisely in the same way, with small groups applying democratic pressure on their local authorities.

Jerusalem Open House, the local sponsor for World Pride 2005, describes itself as a "grassroots, activist organization of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people who live in Jerusalem and the surrounding area." Its mission statement says it will "advocate for social change on issues of concern to our constituents, taking action to promote the values of tolerance and coexistence." JOH has a Palestinian Outreach Initiative to "reach out to LGBT Palestinians from the greater Jerusalem area."

JOH has to demand that the government of Israel open the checkpoints which riddle the "greater Jerusalem area" and allow all Palestinian queers to come and celebrate World Pride.

Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism supports the work of Jerusalem Open House in fighting queer oppression. We respect that LGBTIQ people and organizations within Israel and Palestine will decide for themselves how to relate to World Pride. We also know that queer Palestinians cannot be free until all Palestinians are free. Therefore, we ask queer people internationally to honor the travel boycott of Israel and not attend World Pride 2005 in Jerusalem. ▼

The authors are members of Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism. For more information, visit www.quitpalestine.org or call (510) 434-1304.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Confusion reigns

When confronted with discrimination, assuming it is real, should the objective be to educate and correct or to merely punish? In the case of the Badlands, the charges against Les Natali do not seem proven notwithstanding the findings of the Human Rights Commission after its usual glacially paced investigation. According to Matthew Bajko's article of May 5 ["HRC slams Badlands owner in bias report"], the findings appear to be based mainly upon allegations. The HRC appears to have been selective as to whose allegations they accepted. On the one hand self-professed victims and some former employees. On the other hand Les Natali and some of his current employees.

What is disturbing about this case is that Natali's enterprises flourished for years in the Castro without a hint of alleged discrimination. Only when the owner of the Pendulum decided to sell for reasons including lack of patronage and that the bar's purchase became a matter of dispute between several bidders, were charges of discrimination suddenly lodged against Natali. Would the longtime owner of a bar that catered primarily to gay black men deliberately choose to sell to a racist? And can we take seriously the accusations of one of the failed bidders whose lawyer, according to another article by Bajko, asserted that those wannabe owners planned to completely renovate the bar "so that the business would be a first-class gay bar that would attract high paying customers." Does that seem particularly friendly to the interests of gays of moderate or lesser income, which unfortunately describes the economic status of many of the city's gay minority residents?

I strongly supported Bevan Duffy in his race for supervisor but found it disappointing that he so promptly and vigorously sided with one of Natali's competitors from the very outset before the issues had been fully aired and explored. Then Duffy, in conjunction with the Entertainment Commission, initiated steps to enforce a long ignored licensing policy that almost seemed deliberately designed to force Natali into a public confrontation with his well-organized opposition. Is it any wonder that Natali withdrew this particular licensing application?

I frequent our neighborhood bars and over the years have not seen a major black or Hispanic presence in any of the bars other than the Pendulum. Very likely this is based upon economics. Most proprietors of public places in San Francisco are much too smart to practice discrimination, unless their heads have been in the sand for the last several decades. Hostility toward minority persons may lurk in the minds of some proprietors and customers in Castro establishments, a kind of racial prejudice that is certainly not exclusive to whites, but it is more apt to be the occasional customer who acts out these feelings than any business proprietor who wishes to stay in business.

Regardless of a bar owner's personal thoughts about race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, no public establishment should be allowed to discriminate. However, it seems most probable that the genesis of this sorry episode involving the Badlands and the Pendulum is a power struggle between two business people, one of whom has been much cleverer than the other to the detriment of the entire gay community. More divisiveness is not what we need. Is it possible

that a lot of people of good will are just being used?

I am not a fan of Natali or any other owner of multiple business interests in the Castro. I much preferred when our watering holes and diners were individually owned and each reflected its own personality. But those days are over. So what would be accomplished by rescinding the licenses of one bar mogul, other than either closing some old and well liked establishments or forcing their transfer and ownership to other bar moguls. The Badlands now has a diversified staff and clientele. So if that issue is resolved is the only purpose now to punish? Sorry, but that is way too Bush for me. Would not the same energy and press being expended on this issue be better directed toward other and bigger issues such as defending essential social and public health programs and opposing homophobia where ever it exists, including within our minority communities?

Ray Barrier
San Francisco

Gays who are racist

Thank you for your editorial of May 5 ["Racism is alive and well"] and thanks to Mark Mardon for his remarks in his Calendare column ["Think about it"]. It always comes as a shock to encounter homosexuals who are racist, as it does to encounter people of color who are homophobic. They have lived in the world

without acquiring the gift of sympathy.

Any white who uses the word "nigger" advertises the poverty of his or her upbringing. Anyone who is white and queer and racist brings their stupidity into the equation.

James Queen
San Francisco

Would welcome Trader Joe's

I would like to second Kevin Kean's welcome of Trader Joe's to the corner near Sanchez and Market streets [Mailstrom, April 28].

The existing paint store, with its barren, asphalt parking lot out front, is not exactly a piece of inspired urban architecture. It is a dead spot along Market Street. Along with the rather bleak-looking Shell gas station across the street, this little stretch of Market Street looks like it belongs on the outskirts of Livermore rather than in the heart of the vibrant, picturesque, urban place, which San Franciscans are fond of portraying their city as being.

Trader Joe's would liven up the dull-looking intersection at Market and Sanchez. I can't believe that anyone would seriously believe that a Trader Joe's store wouldn't be an improvement over what's there now. The parking issue is just a red herring. So maybe they'll be some increased traffic. So, what? This is a city, not the sleepy, outer edge of suburbia. You want quiet? Move to Guerneville (or Livermore). So I say to all those NIMBYs in the Castro, grow up, and let the Castro become more than just a neighborhood of video stores and bars.

One final thought touched upon by Mr. Kean - we need Trader Joe's as an alternative to the expensive and Bush-friendly Safeway down the street.

Christopher Corbett
San Francisco



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News briefs

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HIV planning council meeting

The San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council, also known as the Care Council, will host another community meeting Thursday, May 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street. The council's community outreach and advocacy committee is hosting the meeting, which is being held to solicit input from the Castro community about services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the city. The planning council prioritizes and allocates federal Ryan White CARE Act funds.

Because of space limitations, next week's meeting, which is free and will include refreshments, is limited to the first 70 people who arrive. For more information, call (415) 674-4768.

Asian HIV Awareness Day

The first national Asian and Pacific Islander Awareness Day takes place Thursday, May 19 in cities across the country. Locally, the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center is organizing its kickoff event, "Family Tree: Rooted in Acceptance," which takes place from 5 to 6 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street at 3rd Street in San Francisco. Celebrities, including Greg Louganis, Alec Mapa, and Esra Tualo, are expected to take part in panel discussions. The key message, organizers said, is that families play an important role in stopping silence and shame surrounding the topic of HIV/AIDS in API communities. The event also serves as a launch

for the Banyan Tree Project, a yearlong national campaign to fight HIV-related discrimination in API communities.

Later that night, at the same venue, API will host its "MIX 2005" fundraiser, from 6:45 to 10 p.m. Mapa and Amy Hill will emcee the event. Tickets are \$50 per person. Honorees include Louganis, the Horizons Foundation, the Tom Waddell Health Center, Comcast Cable, and television stations CBS5 and UPN.

For more information, visit www.apowellness.org.

SF seeks poet laureate

Attention all city poets: San Francisco wants to hear from you.

Mayor Gavin Newsom announced last week that he is seeking a new poet laureate, the fourth since the program's inception in 1998.

The term of the new poet laureate will begin in September, with the delivery of the inaugural address. The poet will serve for two years.

"The poet laureate offers significant cultural, literary, and educational contributions, which lead to the enlightenment and pleasure of all San Franciscans," Newsom said in a statement.

Nomination forms are available at the San Francisco Public Library (Main Library and branches), and on the library's Web site at www.sfppl.org. Poet laureate nominees must be San Francisco residents and have a substantial body of published work. Responsibilities include delivering an inaugural address on the state of poetry, participating in community-based poetry events, working on one or more poetry-centered events in cooperation with the library, and doing a reading at Litquake. The deadline for nominations is June 15. ▼

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POLITICS

Justice for Diane Whipple

by Bill Barnes

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the 13th in a series of such columns.

Love or hate former San Francisco District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**, San Franciscans praised prosecutors **Jim Hammer** and **Kimberly Guilfoyle** for getting a second-degree murder conviction against **Marjorie Knoller** in the dog mauling death of Diane Whipple. That verdict sent Knoller to prison for 15 to life, until a judge kicked it, calling the incident "involuntary manslaughter."

An appeals court last week reinstated the jury's decision, saying Superior Court Judge **James Warren** was wrong on the law. Unfortunately, the court didn't go as far as it could, and attorneys for Knoller and the D.A. probably return to court to re-argue the motion, unless the California Supreme Court steps in, which is unlikely.

Hallinan lost his seat to current District Attorney **Kamala Harris**, and Hammer and Guilfoyle — the prosecutors with the strongest knowledge of the case, and both prominent Hallinan backers — moved on. Harris can, however, rehire the prosecutors for just this case to increase the odds that justice prevails. Hammer, a 17-year prosecutor, has said he'd be willing to see this case all the way through. Guilfoyle, a successful Court TV anchor in New York, couldn't be reached by deadline. Both likely would need Harris to act quickly to prepare appropriately. The D.A.'s office was still looking at its options as this item went to press.

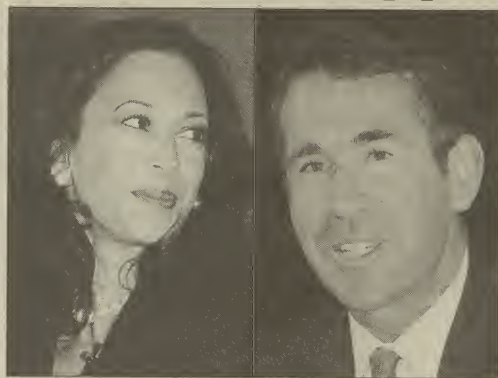
Let's hope Harris sets politics aside and looks out for the interests of justice.

Stem cells

The *San Francisco Chronicle* couldn't stop praising straight guys for landing the stem cell institute headquarters in San Francisco. There was a photo of Mayor **Gavin Newsom** and Committee on Jobs head **Nathan Nayman** celebrating with some fratboy fist pounding. The Matiser & Ross column credited Gap founder **Don Fisher**. Truth is, our city owes a lot to state Senator **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco), that effective Sacramento lesbian, and **Jeff Sheehy**, the former Milk Club president who serves on the stem cell governing board. When straight city officials stumbled out of the gates, Migden and Sheehy kept their eyes on the prize. But who really expects accurate reporting from the *Chronicle*?

One person with courage

The saying "one person with courage makes a majority" rings true. Presidential loser Senator **John Kerry** was in Louisiana, not his home state, when he slammed Massachusetts Democrats for supporting gay marriage in their party platform. How much money did we give this schmuck? How often did marriage champion Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) stomp for him? The deafening silence you hear is Congressman **Barney Frank** (D-Massachu-



Will District Attorney Kamala Harris, left, bring back former prosecutor Jim Hammer to finish the dog mauling case?

setts), who criticized Gavin Newsom for his courageous pro-marriage stance. The best way to show Kerry you care: e-mail the incessant johnkerry.com spammers and ask them to remove your name from their list.

One person with courage is Navajo Nation President **Joe Shirley**, who vetoed a bill that would have defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Calling the measure "unnecessary," Shirley said the proposal didn't deal with real issues like family violence or child abuse. The measure could turn into an initiative, and if it does, we have to help folks in Navajoland beat back this attack. Navajo **Sherrick Roanhorse**, a former Capitol Hill intern and Log Cabin member, enlisted the Republican group to gain the veto. Who says Log Cabin never accomplishes anything?

One person who looks far from courageous this week is termed-out Assemblyman **Joe Nation** (D-San Rafael), who announced a challenge to fabulous Marin Congresswoman **Lynn Woolsey** (D). Nation, who came out swinging as a supporter of keeping troops in Iraq (Woolsey wants them home now), promised to spend \$1 million to run for the seat. You might remember Nation as the guy who couldn't measure up to Carole Migden or **Willie Brown**, and opted not to run for **John Burton**'s state Senate seat. Message to Nation: real Democrats have better priorities: sending **Tom DeLay** packing and electing **Nancy Pelosi** as speaker by winning a majority. Why create a primary fight in the Bay Area when there are far better ways to help Democrats win?

Go West, young man

If you run for office in the closet and attack the LGBT community, don't be surprised when your hypocrisy is exposed.

In Washington state, attention is focused on Microsoft's waffling on that state's gay rights bill, but Gay.com seems as if it's where the action's really at. Spokane Mayor **Jim West**, a right-wing Republican who once tried to outlaw sex between unmarried teens, has apparently been having sex with 18-year-old men recruited from the Internet. As Republican leader of the Washington Senate, West voted against gay rights legislation and allowed procedural tricks to block those bills from coming to a vote at all. He's also accused of molesting underage boys, which hasn't yet been proven, but he did resign from the board of the Boy Scouts.

That's a good thing, because on Sunday a councilmember said West confided in her that he had masturbated in his City Hall office during an online session. It's time, as the local paper said, for Mr. West to go.

Another sex scandal engulfed an aspiring politician, 28-year old **Paul Berry**, who was running for Parliament from Northern Ireland. Berry acknowledged meeting up for a massage in a hotel room with a man recruited from a gay massage Web site. Berry, a gospel singer, was a candidate of the Democratic Unionist Party, a party run by religious conservatives. Berry claims that he was only getting a massage for an old sports injury, but the massage provider reported something else in the local press.

The Brits vote

Second to the BBC Web site, **Andrew Sullivan's** blog (andrewsullivan.com) was the best place to go for Election Night observations in the UK. While Sullivan's conservative politics are often criticized, his analysis of the election is spot on. Most notable is Sullivan's comparison of the Tories and American Republicans: Tories support gay unions, non-discrimination in military service and are fielding openly gay candidates. Republicans have **Rick Santorum** (who's still down by double digits). On the Labour side, congratulations to openly gay MP **Ben Bradshaw**, who retained his seat in Exeter.

Also, will the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation move their ritzy event from a hotel on the Local 2 boycott list already? A bunch of queens in tuxedos shouldn't disrespect Harvey Milk's legacy by supporting our rights while demeaning working people. Kudos to **Robert Haaland** for his hard work on this one.

Finally, if you own a small business or want to, you might go down to the State Building on Friday, May 13. **Betty Yee**, our representative on the state Board of Equalization (that tax panel Migden used to serve on) sponsors a Small Business Fair at 455 Golden Gate, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. From the federal Small Business Administration to all the appropriate state agencies, folks will be on hand to help you figure it all out. For more info, call (415) 356-6113. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com.

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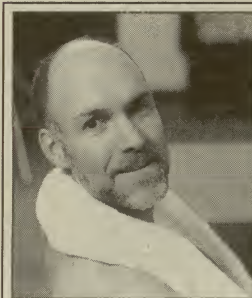
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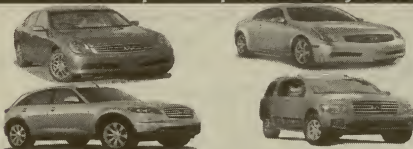
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I don't need a definition

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Floating right now through the United States Congress – regardless of all the goings on about filibusters and “nuclear options” surrounding judicial nominees – is a bill called the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act of 2005. It's Senate Bill 51 and House Bill 356.

As you can guess from the name of the bill in question, it is focused on a woman's right to choose, and is attempting to set up a further roadblock to such treatment in the form of a paragraph to be presented to a possible abortion patient. The specifics of such are actually rather irrelevant to what I want to discuss.

The interesting part of this bill, to me, can be found in the definitions section. It is here that you'll find the following definition: “The term ‘woman’ means a female human being who is capable of becoming pregnant, whether or not she has reached the age of maturity.”

This is a rather intriguing definition, one that focuses purely on the state of one's reproductive organs, and even sets aside legal age when determining just what a woman is.

Of course, given this is a bill specific to childbirth, this focus makes some sense. Nevertheless, I found myself wondering just how many people would not be a woman based specifically on this language.

I would be out right off the bat. I simply do not have the inner structure to carry a child. No ova, no uterus, and not a fallopian tube in the joint. Still, I would be in good company under such a definition.

If you are a female human being who cannot become pregnant, then you can come on over and sit on the bench with me.

If you have reached menopause, you are not a woman.

If you have had your tubes tied, you are not a woman.

If you have had a hysterectomy, you are not a woman.

If you were born with a birth defect that prevents you from becoming pregnant, you are not a woman.

I suppose that, taken to a somewhat silly extreme, you could argue that a woman who is preg-

nant is not a woman under that definition: after all, a female human being who is pregnant cannot become pregnant at the same time. If that were the case, then the whole bill would be rather moot.

I've also known transmen who could conceivably become pregnant, and who could be defined as a female human being. That could really muddy the waters of this definition – and I suspect that the bill's sponsors are not thinking of female to male individuals when they drafted this piece of legislation.

Nevertheless, it is not a stretch to think of situations where such could potentially affect female to males, male to females, and just about everyone who transcends the boundaries of gender.

Over the last few years, the issue of same-sex marriage has begun to reach a fever pitch, with Defense of Marriage Act-type laws passed throughout the country, numerous states changing their constitutions to outlaw such nuptials, and even discussions of a federal constitutional amendment barring marriage except when between one man and one woman.

Unfortunately, aside from court nullifications of marriage licenses issued in early 2004 in several cities in the United States, most of these DOMA laws have been used to challenge marriages not of gay or lesbian couples, but marriages where one or both parties are transgender. Also unfortunately, these challenges have been largely successful, ruling transgender people to be part of their birth gender.

Yes, some of those cases have even stuck to definitions of gender as specific and dangerous as the one I presented above. In one case, a transgender woman had her marriage annulled because the court determined that sex was based solely on whether a person had an XX or an XY as their 23rd pair of genes. Such decisions inadvertently cut out anyone whose chromosomal makeup doesn't match the above.

This is the biggest problem with any definition of gender – some people will always be left out, especially those one might not have even thought about – and I assure you, there is no definition of “woman” or “man” I have ever seen that doesn't leave people out.



Christine Smith

Is it genitals or reproductive status?

Is it genetics? This leaves out XXY, XXXY, and hordes of other possible variations.

Is it birth gender? Tell that to those who may have been reassigned, or who were born intersexed.

Is it in the legal documentation? All it takes is one clerical error to redefine a person.

Is it physical appearance? There are plenty of examples of people who would not fit into such a definition.

Is it being feminine or masculine? I won't even dignify that one with an answer.

Yet this Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act of 2005 could be used to bar transgender people from name changes, birth certificate changes, immigration, protection under sexual harassment laws, and countless other things that could be possibly affected by one little definition. While completely unwed to the marriage issue, it could also provide a definition of woman that could potentially be used to explain what is meant by “a union of one man and one woman,” thus barring many people from marriage.

I don't need to be defined. I know I am a woman, even if I can't so easily pin down a definition behind calling myself such. Frankly, I shouldn't have too, any more than any non-transgender person should have to prove the right to use a given gender.

I am because I am – not because Congress says so. It's that simple. ▼

Gwen Smith would rather not be pinned down – at least by language. You can find her online at www.gwensmith.com.

Partying for a good cause



Jane Philomen Cleland

Karen Opp, right, is all smiles as she chats with lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon at the star-studded benefit for Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and the National Center for Excellence in Women's Health held May 6 at the Sound Factory. The benefit featured cast members from Showtime's *The L Word* and Opp donated \$15,000 for Martin and Lyon to have a walk-on role in a future episode or have the Lyon-Martin clinic mentioned on the show. The event raised tens of thousands of dollars.

Dog mauling case back

by Ed Walsh

Former San Francisco prosecutor Jim Hammer is asking District Attorney Kamala Harris to give him the chance to finish what he started: the prosecution of Marjorie Knoller for second-degree murder in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of Diane Whipple.

In a stunning reversal last week, the California 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco reinstated the second-degree conviction against Knoller. The appeals court ruled that San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren did not apply the correct standard of law when he reduced Knoller's conviction to involuntary manslaughter. The court ordered Warren to hold a hearing to reconsider the case under what it said was the proper standard of law.

When he threw out the jury's second-degree conviction, Warren said that he was convinced that Knoller did not know that her dogs would kill. But the appeals court ruled that the second-degree conviction was proper because the correct standard was simply whether Knoller disregarded the great risk that the dogs presented.

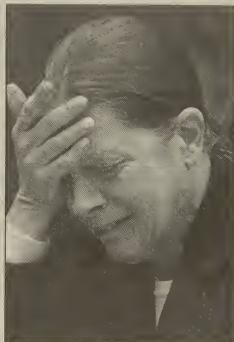
Hammer told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he first heard of the appeals court ruling when informed by reporters last Thursday, May 5. "I could hardly believe the news," Hammer said. "I was beside myself."

Hammer called Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, and left a message on her voice mail. Smith called him back in disbelief.

"She didn't believe it at first," Hammer said. "She thought I was kidding."

Hammer said that he expects that Warren will schedule a hearing within four to eight weeks to formally hear arguments from both sides over whether Knoller's second-degree conviction should be reinstated.

Hammer said that he formally



Marjorie Knoller during the trial

requested that his former employer, the San Francisco District Attorney's office, appoint him to argue that case since he was the lead prosecutor and knows the case better than anyone. The former prosecutor noted that Smith had also requested that he be allowed to argue the case.

A spokeswoman for the San Francisco District Attorney's office, Debbie Mesloh, told the *B.A.R.* on Tuesday, May 10, that Assistant District Attorney Allison Garbutt has been assigned to the case. Mesloh noted that Garbutt had conducted legal research for the original trial. Mesloh added that no decision has been made over whether to bring Hammer in at a later point.

Smith told reporters that she was elated by the appeals court decision. She said she did not get her hopes up before the decision because she was told that judges don't like to overturn other judges and therefore only a small chance existed that the second-degree conviction would be reinstated.

Knoller, 49, is on parole in Florida. Her husband, Robert Noel, 63, is serving his parole in Solano County. Knoller was with her two Presa Canario dogs during the January 2001 hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor.

Noel was out of town during the attack. He was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. Jurors in the case were convinced that the couple ignored warnings that their dogs were dangerous.

The appeals court also rejected Noel's appeal of his conviction. Additionally, the court rejected Noel's arguments that his parole should be ended immediately.

In an e-mail, Noel told the *B.A.R.* that he would appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court and to the federal courts, if necessary. Noel declined comment on the appeals court's decision to reinstate his wife's second-degree conviction.

Don Newton, the foreman of the jury that convicted the couple, told the *B.A.R.* that he first heard the news of the appellate court's decision through media reports. Newton said that he suspected that Judge Warren's decision to set aside the verdict may have been politically motivated and that he believed that politics may have played a part in the reversal as well.

"It seems to me that the political winds have changed again," Newton told the *B.A.R.* "What the hell, they could still reverse this again," he added.

The appeals court decision was not unanimous. One of the three judges on the panel, Justice Paul Haerle, wrote in his dissenting opinion that Knoller should be granted a new trial. Haerle argued that Warren improperly threatened Knoller's lawyer, Nedra Ruiz, with jail if she made any more objections during Hammer's closing argument. ▼

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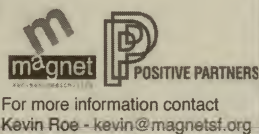
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El Ambiente to mark a decade of service

by Kevin Davis

One of San Francisco's few HIV prevention programs for hard to reach gay and bisexual Latino men has been hit with city and federal budget cuts, but will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a fundraiser featuring dancers, a silent auction, and mountains of Middle Eastern food.

El Ambiente (or "people of the ambiance"), the HIV prevention program and primary project of the San Francisco-based nonprofit AGUILAS, will celebrate a decade of empowering gay Latino men in safe sex and healthy relationships at its celebration on Tuesday, May 17 at Medjool Restaurant in San Francisco.

Honorees at the reception include Concha Saucedo, Ph.D., executive director of Instituto Familiar de la Raza; Ricardo Bustamante, SF ballet master; Monica Taher, the media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's people of color campaign; George Ayala, director of AIDS Project Los Angeles' education division; and Ruben Garcia, a program analyst with the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

In late 1994 AGUILAS, or Association of United Gays Impacting Latinos/Latinas toward Self-Empowerment, began El Ambiente, a practical, interactive, peer-based HIV intervention strategy. El Ambiente services have led to a reduction of high-risk unprotected anal intercourse in 40 to 70 percent of its clients, based on questionnaires filled out at six-month intervals.

Since the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discontinued funding the program two years ago, slashing El Ambiente's annual budget of \$400,000 by 40 percent, the agency's only contract is with the

city. But its proposal did not score high enough on the city health department's first round of selections this year, officials said. El Ambiente reapplied and is awaiting second round acceptance. Meanwhile, foundation grants have maintained essential core services with only a few layoffs.

According to comments received by Executive Director Eduardo Morales, Ph.D., the CDC review teams suddenly found El Ambiente's standard grant proposals confusing, even though they contained statistically-focu-

city. But its proposal did not score high enough on the city health department's first round of selections this year, officials said. El Ambiente reapplied and is awaiting second round acceptance. Meanwhile, foundation grants have maintained essential core services with only a few layoffs.

with an orientation for new members to strengthen resilience to high-risk behavior, an "introduction to the preliminary system of care," said Morales. Small skill-building workshops for eight to 10 participants are focused on things like relaxation, yoga, and nutrition. In twice-monthly discussion groups accommodating up to 20 clients, two facilitators supervised by Morales lead talks on topical issues focused on complex "psychosocial co-factors" to HIV such as substance abuse among friends,

El Ambiente services have led to a reduction of high-risk unprotected anal intercourse.

cused demonstrated theoretical research, detailed community impact reports, and quality controls.

The Horizons Foundation and AIDS Walk San Francisco have provided general operating funds and El Ambiente was the first Latino gay organization ever to receive money from the Academy of Friends, an "historical allocation," Morales called it.

After submitting an infrastructure development plan to the Haas Foundation, it granted money to help El Ambiente expand and diversify its funding resources while keeping the program afloat, and helped pay for staff time to pursue 10 grants in the past year and to host the May 17 celebration.

El Ambiente HIV programs use a psycho-educational approach, with trained peer-level facilitators posing questions on integrating safe-sex knowledge into clients' lives. In this way participants "take ownership of the problem, as our problem, embedded in the community," said Morales.

The array of services begins

and coming out to co-workers and parents. Some clients have been members for years.

Masters candidates offer one-on-one HIV risk reduction counseling in English, Spanish, sign language, and Portuguese.

Since last November, El Ambiente has staged two "Noches de Cabaret" events with dancing and live music by such artists as guitarist Jesus Guillen; educational skits on historical Mexican figures and events; and a drag lip-synching show, produced by El Ambiente administrative assistant Rodrigo Caldera. The events served as a recruitment effort and concluded with a brief promotion for El Ambiente's mission.

The first cabaret night, held at El Ambiente's offices, drew 100 attendees and others had to be turned away. The second, at the Community Music Center on Capp Street, drew 200 people.

"For some reason it's a sell-out crowd," said Morales, a clinical psychologist. "The place is packed." ▼

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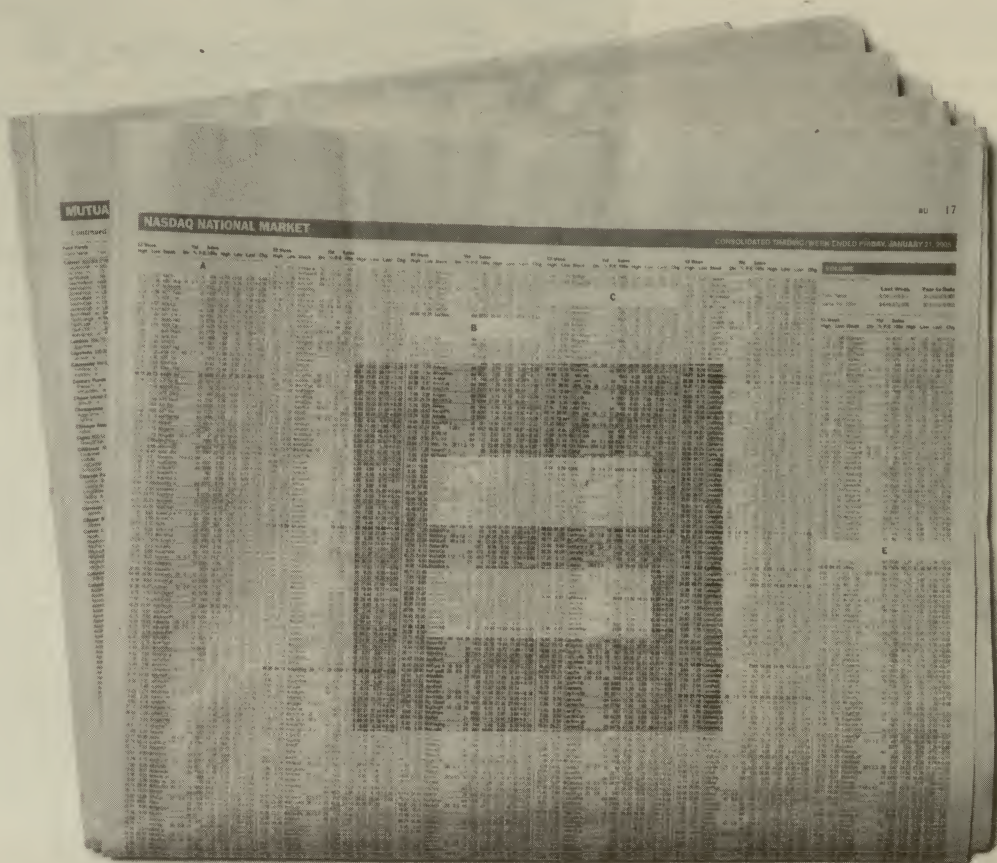
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Sandwiched between Reverend Lou Sheldon, left, and Assemblyman Ray Haynes, at podium, Jeff Bissiri, director of the California chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, testifies in opposition to Haynes's proposed state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and domestic partnerships.

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Marriage bans die
in Sacramento

by Matthew S. Bajko

Lawmakers in both houses of the state Legislature killed attempts to ban gay marriage in California's constitution on Tuesday, May 10.

Late in the day the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 5-2 against Senate Constitutional Amendment 1, by Senator Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside). Earlier in the day the Assembly Judiciary Committee struck down Assembly Constitutional Amendment 3, by Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Riverside)

by a 6-3 vote.

Gay rights groups hailed the votes as "a dramatic double failure" for Lou Sheldon and his Traditional Values Coalition, which have pushed to see not only the gay marriage bans be added to the constitution but same-sex couples stripped of their domestic partnerships.

Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors said the proposed constitutional amendments appeared to be designed to repeal California's domestic partnership law and prevent the Legislature, the courts, and the voters from passing laws to provide any legal rights and protections to lesbian and gay couples.

"This extreme measure would not only prevent lesbian and gay couples from obtaining civil marriage licenses, but would likely strip away the most basic protections that tens of thousands of California families now enjoy thanks to California's domestic partnership laws," said Kors after the votes. "From denying hospital visitation and health insurance to prohibiting domestic partnership protections and marriage equality, this dangerous constitutional amendment threatens California families and undermines the basis of our constitutional government: majority rule with protection for minorities."

Haynes argued the measures would strengthen the intent of Proposition 22, which voters passed five years ago. The ballot measure prevents California from recognizing gay marriages performed outside the state.

He said the Legislature and the courts had "eviscerated" the meaning of Proposition 22 and made up legal arguments to determine it was unconstitutional, according to an Associated Press ac-

count.

"When the people said only that marriage could be between a man and a woman they knew exactly what they were talking about," Haynes said. "The words were clear. The meaning was clear. The intention was clear."

However, Assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Sherman Oaks) said the Haynes amendment amounted to "legalizing discrimination," according to the AP report.

"The fact is plain and simple," he said. "There is a group of people who, for whatever reason, do not like gays and cannot tolerate the idea of two women sleeping together or two men sleeping together. To put that into the constitution ... is simply unconscionable."

The battle over the constitutional amendments now moves to the ballot box, with Sheldon and his supporters vowing to put the issue before voters in 2006. The antigay groups are using the amendment process to circumvent lawmakers and the courts.

The votes Tuesday come two weeks after the Assembly Judiciary Committee passed AB19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act Tuesday, April 26 by a 6-3 vote. Introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), the bill seeks to amend the state Family Code to define a marriage as a civil contract between two persons, instead of a civil contract between a man and a woman.

Leno is confident he can get the Legislature to pass his bill this year. A San Francisco Superior Court judge already ruled this year that the state's marriage laws prohibiting matrimony to only a man and a woman are unconstitutional. The antigay groups plan to appeal that ruling. ▼

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KALETRA INDICATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION¹

KALETRA[®] (lopinavir/ritonavir) is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir.

Taking KALETRA with certain drugs can cause serious problems or death. KALETRA should not be taken with dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot[®], Migranal[®], D.H.E. 45[®], Ergotrate Maleate, and Mergine, as well as Halcion[®], Hismania[®], Drap[®], Propulsid[®], Seldane[®], Versed[®], rifampin, also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®], Mevacor[®], Zocor[®], or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Particular caution should be used when taking Viagra[®], Cialis[®], or Levitra[®], since the interaction with KALETRA may result in an increase in their related side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take, with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain, which may be signs of pancreatitis, or if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis B or C. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have

been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. Varying degrees of cross-resistance among protease inhibitors have been observed.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity are: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

1. Kaletra Prescribing Information.

Please see important patient information on adjacent page.



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BRIEF SUMMARY CONSULT PACKAGE INSERT FOR FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA® (knh-LEE-tra)
Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir (loP-IN-uh-vee-fri-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check-ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA. Before taking your medicine, make sure you have received the correct medicine. Compare the name above with the name on your bottle and the appearance of your medicine with the description provided below. Contact your pharmacist immediately if you believe a dispensing error has occurred.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older):
The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age:
Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.
- For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."
- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others.
 - Halcion® (risedronate)
 - Humanaid® (astemizole)
 - Ongap® (pazopride)
 - Prepulsid® (cisapride)
 - Seklane® (terfenadine)
 - Vered® (nifedipine)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater® or Rilamtec®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take

St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil), Cialis® (tadalafil), or Levitra® (vardenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, CIALIS, or LEVITRA such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") or the contraceptive patch to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral or patch contraceptives.

- Elaviven® (Sioctiva™), nevirapine (Viramune®), Agenerase (amprenavir) and Viracept (zalcitabine) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking elaviven, nevirapine, amprenavir or zalcitabine.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw away medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Microsoft reverses course

by Lisa Keen

In a stunning reversal, the Microsoft Corporation announced May 6 that it would not remain "neutral" in the fight for equal rights for gay people in the United States.

Steve Ballmer, chief executive officer of the company, sent an e-mail to its employees, saying the corporation would include gay civil rights in its corporate legislative agenda both federally and in the company's home state of Washington.

"After looking at the question from all sides," said Ballmer, "I've concluded that diversity in the workplace is such an important issue for our business that it should be included in our legislative agenda."

A spokesman for Microsoft, Kent Hollenbeck, elaborated. He said the company would support federal legislation that would "extend existing law to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation." He said Microsoft would also support the Washington state non-discrimination bill "should it come up" in the future.

Supporters of the statewide bill, which failed by only one vote in the state Senate last month, said they would bring the legislation up again next year.

Microsoft's decision to support equal rights for gays in the workplace represents a victory for gay civil rights supporters and serves as an illustration of the ability of gays and their supporters to make their case in the face of threats from right-wing opponents.

"Clearly, this shows that diversity is a crucial issue for business," said Selisse Berry, executive director of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a San Francisco-based national organization that promotes equality in the workplace for gays. "Successful business leaders know what is good for business and the marketplace, and that is fairness and equality for everyone, including the LGBT community."

Tina Podlodowski, who was a senior manager at Microsoft in the 1980s and 1990s and helped form Microsoft's gay employee group GLEAM, said she believes GLEAM and "a wide variety of folks" were instrumental in convincing Microsoft to change its position. Podlodowski, who is now head of a Seattle AIDS service group, said she believes Microsoft's initial decision to stay "neutral" concerning the Washington state gay civil rights bill was the result of "bullying" by a local evangelical pastor.

The controversy erupted nationally last month when the company told its employees that it would remain "neutral" on the bill to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in Washington state. Company officials initially said they made this decision because the county where most of its employees work already has nondiscrimination protection and because the corporation wanted to focus the short legislative session "on a limited number of issues that are directly related to our business." After Microsoft said it would take no position on the bill, the legislation was defeated by only one vote in the Washington state Senate. That vote, said Equal Rights Washington Executive Director G. orge Cheung, had been sewn up until Microsoft took its pressure off the Republican minority leader who, in turn, "put a lock" on the Republican vote, forcing two or three supporters of

the bill to vote against it.

Soon after the vote, a Seattle weekly newspaper, *The Stranger*, reported that a senior Microsoft vice president acknowledged to a group of gay employees that a local evangelical Christian pastor had threatened to organize a national boycott of Microsoft products unless the company withdrew its support of the bill.

Then, that pastor, Ken Hutcherson of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, Washington, told the *New York Times* that Microsoft "backed off" from the civil rights bill after he threatened to stage a national boycott.

Initially, Microsoft tried to defend its neutrality, but criticism from gays and their supporters mounted quickly. The Human Rights Campaign, which, in 2003, had identified Microsoft as one of a small subset of corporations that had "exceeded expectations" in support of equal rights for gays nationally, expressed "profound" disappointment. The Gay & Lesbian Center in Los Angeles asked Microsoft to return its "Corporate Vision Award."

Within a week, Microsoft's

world famous founder, Bill Gates, was promising to take another look at the decision. And by the end of last week, the corporation had taken that second look and reversed its decision.

Microsoft's Hollenbeck said the company received "considerable" employee input and that its decision to support gay civil rights legislation in the future was based on "what's best for Microsoft's business."

Podlodowski said that, during her tenure at the corporation, it had a long history of "doing the right thing for GLBT employees."

"The company went back to its true values - what's right for employees and customers," said Podlodowski.

Other gay groups agreed, applauding Microsoft for returning to its supportive position on gay civil rights issues.

"Few of us have not made a misstep," said Lorri Jean, executive director of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. "This was a misstep. It was a big one. But Microsoft has done the right thing, and we would be proud to have them keep our award." ▼

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Dear Members:

A lot has been said and written about San Francisco Badlands lately. But have you gone to Badlands to check it out for yourself? We think you'll like what you see. You will see an ethnically diverse, friendly bar staff working in a welcoming and fun environment. Our aim is to make Badlands an oasis of racial harmony, a place where everyone is welcome and everyone *feels* welcome. And everyone has a good time.

We'd like you to help us in our effort to promote even greater diversity at Badlands, and we'd like to help you in your organization's fund-raising efforts. We want it known that Badlands welcomes everyone and everyone is welcome. Here's our proposal:

Because we support your efforts to promote greater diversity in the Castro, Badlands is offering to you, the above-named organizations (and other deserving community organizations) the opportunity to host a series of Wednesday night fund-raisers. Badlands will donate 70% of all drink sales to the organizations that host and promote the fund-raisers. Hosting organizations will receive a minimum of \$3,000 each night, but may receive up to \$5,000 or more; the actual amount will be equal to 70% of the gross sales for all drinks served that night.

Badlands will schedule the fund-raisers every Wednesday night for 26 weeks or until a total of \$100,000 has been donated to the hosting organizations. Does this sound like something you or your organization might be interested in? If so, please contact us for more information. This offer is subject to conditions. Call 415-626-9320 or email: info@sfbadlands.com

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Jim Hedges

Les Natali

◀ page 1

icized the appeal for not addressing evidence that Natali discriminates on the basis of race.

"Instead, he argues for more than 15 pages that HRC, as an independent fact finder, failed to afford him considerably more due process rights and that his word should have been given greater weight and credibility than the individual complainants and witnesses," wrote Turman. "Of course, his whining ignores the fact that he was given numerous deadline extensions that he failed to meet; the testimony he and his employees gave was not verified or sworn to; and his counsel was present to either coach or direct his handpicked witnesses. His reconsideration request illustrates and underscores the very fact at issue in this matter; Mr. Natali believes that superior status may be conveyed at his pleasure. In sum, Mr. Natali's latest attempt to avoid the ramifications of his conduct runs true to form — poor form."

While Natali dismissed some of those making charges against him as disgruntled employees who are "liars" and "obviously out to get me," Natali took a more sympathetic approach to customers of his bar who say they were discriminated against due to their race.

"I do acknowledge some people may feel they have been discriminated against or may have felt that way because of a misunderstanding," he said. "I am not denying they may have genuinely felt discriminated against. I am very sorry about that, too."

In one instance, Natali said he asked a black patron to leave his bar because of his conduct. However, the man charged it was due to his outfit and claimed racial discrimination.

"This person really does believe that and his belief is genuine. There is no way I could convince him otherwise," said Natali. "What I have learned is I need to be more aware that people may misinterpret a situation."

Background

Natali, 54, grew up in Fresno and moved to San Francisco to attend San Francisco State University. Working as a real estate agent during the day, he attended law school at night and interned in the public defender's office.

"I assisted primarily people of color and loved that job," recalled Natali.

In the 'mid-1980s he learned that the Patio Café was being sold, and he jumped at the chance to own his favorite Castro hangout. The Café closed in 1999 and Natali bought the Badlands in 2000. Since then he bought the Detour, and after a protracted legal fight over its sale, last December he became a majority owner of the Pendulum, the only Castro bar with a predominantly African American clientele.

He has repeatedly charged that his accusers are really public relations skills for his competitors, saying they made their accusations after a court threw out the lawsuit by the competing bidders for the Pendulum. This week, members of And Castro For All sent him a cease and desist letter, saying such comments are patently false and damaging to future job prospects of some of the complainants. They want Natali to write an open letter to the press apologizing for his statements.

"Instead of further humiliating and harassing patrons, he should apologize and retract the misstatements and lies he is perpetu-

ating," said John Newsome, a spokesman for And Castro For All.

Asked about such claims, Natali responded that, "I said what I felt. I suppose I was reluctant to acknowledge people really felt discriminated against."

A biased report?

At times during the nearly 90-minute interview Natali was unable to complete his sentences out of frustration. He simply shook his head while discussing the HRC's investigation, which he said was skewed against him from the start.

"I haven't been treated fairly by the HRC. I am very upset about that," said Natali. "I said to the HRC I want an investigation into these charges. My belief was it would be fair and result in the truth. But that isn't the way it has worked out."

Joining Natali during the interview was Brian Bloom, a Badlands bartender who is half black and half Jewish and has worked at the bar for over a year and a half. Speaking out for the first time about the charges against his boss, Bloom defended Natali, saying he had never known him to be racist or discriminate against anyone at his bars.



Rick Bernhardt

Badlands bartender Brian Bloom

"I have always been treated very fairly," said Bloom, who added that Natali even asked him to become assistant manager when it appeared he might lose his daytime job.

One of 30 present and former employees of Natali's interviewed by the HRC during its 10-month investigation of his business practices, Bloom also questioned the objectivity of the HRC staffers.

"My interviewer with the HRC did seem to have a biased opinion going into the interview," he said.

The HRC refutes such charges, noting that it did not find evidence to support some charges complainants made against Natali.

"The interviews were not biased from the start. We investigated the complaint from our position of neutrality," said Larry Brinkin, who oversaw the HRC's investigation.

Brinkin declined to comment on Natali's appeal, saying he had yet to fully review it. He did say the HRC would have a response by the end of May.

Asked about Natali's appeal, Newsome said, "I am confident that the HRC's findings will be upheld. This is not a he said-she said matter. The city of San Francisco conducted a very thorough investigation."

Bloom also criticized those making the charges against Natali who at first alleged no African Americans worked at the bar. Once Bloom contacted the complainants, they were forced to revise their charge.

"They seemed to discount my blackness because I am mixed. How black do you truly need to be to be accepted in my community? I am a black man," said Bloom. "I am very proud to sit here today and say I have never experienced any discrimination at the Bad-

lands."

As for the protesters who have stood on the sidewalk outside the bar chanting "shame on you" to patrons of Badlands, Bloom said they should "get off their soapbox" and instead come into the bar to "find out what is really going on."

"I understand their stance but I don't think they have given it a lot of thought. I don't sympathize with the group because I am not living it or seeing it," said Bloom.

While business plunged the first night of the pickets, this last Saturday night the bar appeared as crowded as ever. Natali said it was one of the busiest Saturday nights in months.

Bloom added, "The protests have brought more people out to support Badlands."

According to Natali, the controversy has not put a dent in his business. Since the allegations were first made public last June, he said business has been brisk.

"So far this year has been better than the year before. And last year was better than the year before that," he said. "I am so grateful for the community's support."

As for the bar itself, Bloom said no one ever complained to him about discriminatory policies and that Badlands has always had a diverse, mixed crowd. If anything has come out of the controversy, Bloom said even more people have come to check out the bar.

"We have gotten more support from people of color who have been coming in and engaging us and talking about the issue," said Bloom. "It is a diverse bar. We have all kinds of colors here, boys and girls. It is truly reflective of San Francisco."

Along with wanting to mediate a resolution, Natali has offered to donate \$100,000 over the next six months to any organization that promotes diversity. On Wednesday nights, Natali will turn over 70 percent of drink sales to any organization that wants to host a fundraiser at Badlands.

"I want to let people know this is a place for everyone," said Natali. "I want African American people to come here as they have been coming here. This may give an impetus to some of these people to say 'OK let's talk.'"

Newsome said Natali's offer is nauseating and an attempt to buy the community's silence.

"Our civil rights are not for sale," he said. "We are not interested in money. He should apologize for his misdeeds."

As for the boycott, it appears it will not end until Natali loses his liquor and entertainment licenses for the bar. While Newsome would not say so implicitly, he said the protesters have vowed to remain outside Badlands every Saturday night until city and state agencies take action.

"If the Entertainment Commission can suspend the license of a bar for noise and graffiti and fights in the parking lot, they can certainly hold Mr. Natali accountable for violating the civil rights of our community," said Newsome. "We expect the city and state to hold Mr. Natali accountable. Those agencies represent us so we expect them to do their jobs."

But Bloom said such actions do nothing to promote diversity or awareness of discrimination and only harm the community.

"If they are not going to stop until we lose our liquor license, what does that do for the community? It will leave a hole for where people can go to socialize," he said. "We need to come to the table together to create a plan to promote diversity and achieve some common good for the community. It is time for this group to open up and settle and compromise." ▼

Filipino

◀ page 1

DPH also required FTFA to have a fiscal agent in order to keep its service contract for HIV prevention services, but the agent provided no help, said Bose. "He looked at our invoices, but never checked our finances and wasn't concerned at all about the payroll taxes."

DPH Director of HIV Prevention Steve Tierney said that FTFA was monitored as a contracted agency with the city and received a

problems that continued. The new executive director worked hard with the board president to re-establish the organization, but we came into a new contract cycle in the midst of the chaos, and the contract had to be ended. It has nothing to do with the current executive director or board president; they inherited a complex set of problems."

Rivalry?

Ferma told the B.A.R. that he still hoped to be able to continue some of FTFA's programs. Bose said that there has not yet been a

couldn't ask them for help."

Bose said that his preference would be for Filipino-specific organizations to receive LGBT and HIV sensitivity training and take over FTFA's contracts and services.

But Lance Toma, deputy director of API Wellness Center, said he did not agree that there was a rivalry between the organizations, and added that they had "a long history of working together."

"I wish if he had such intense feelings that he would bring that to my attention," said Toma. "It would be important for me to hear, because we do serve the Filipino community... they are a big percentage of our clients and staff."

Toma said his concern was for FTFA clients, and that API Wellness Center would be happy to offer its services to anyone in need.

"If there are clients that we can serve, we would offer that support during FTFA's transition," he said.

Christian Alvez, a former outreach worker for FTFA, said he never knew of any rivalry with API Wellness Center, but believes some clients may prefer a Filipino-specific organization, while other Filipinos prefer the broader focus of API Wellness Center or use services at both organizations.

"I don't doubt that API Wellness Center has the competency to serve some of FTFA's clients," he said.

Bose said that decisions about FTFA's future would be discussed publicly.

"It will be interesting to see what happens," he said. "No one is to blame, but everyone needs to be held accountable." ▼

Bose said that while the organization could potentially be revived, "it has such a checkered history that I'd like for it to die as dignified a death as possible."

score of "Needs Improvement" in 2003, which was the reason a fiscal agent was required. But that agent was chosen by FTFA itself, said Tierney, who added that DPH was in touch with FTFA about its problems and offered the organization assistance.

"We offered them technical assistance and capacity building. Could we have done more? Sure, anytime an agency fails the obvious answer is everybody could have done more," said Tierney, adding that other organizations with financial problems have overcome them, but that FTFA's situation simply got beyond the current management's control. "They had a lot of administrative

formal decision to terminate the organization, and that while it could potentially be revived, "it has such a checkered history that I'd like for it to die as dignified a death as possible."

For now, the focus will be on how to take care of FTFA's monthly caseload of 75 clients who Bose said have not been served well by organizations like the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

FTFA felt that it could not ask API Wellness Center for support during difficult times, said Bose, because of the mistrust that exists between the two organizations.

"I've had to look at them, unfortunately, as a rival, and I've had to be really guarded," said Bose. "I

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GLAAD

◀ page 3

ter to union leaders May 6 expressing support for their cause. While GLAAD did not agree outright to move the event, the agency did outline what immediate steps it will take, ranging from asking board members to stay at different hotels during their June meeting in San Francisco and informing the St. Francis that GLAAD will not use the hotel in the future until the dispute is settled.

"We will leverage our decisions to the fullest and use the power of our voices to communicate GLAAD's commitment to fairness and equality for all," states the letter, signed by GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry.

It also adds, "We are confident that we are doing everything we can in support of San Francisco's hotel workers."

While the agency said in its letter that "the significant hardship and extraordinary costs of relocating our June 11 Media Awards Dinner prohibit changing the venue," this week GLAAD said it had not ruled out finding a new venue.

"We haven't, at this point, closed off any options. We are still in the process of actively exploring what other sites, if any, are open to us. We are talking to individuals in San Francisco who have offered to be of assistance to us," said GLAAD spokesman Chris Bugbee. "We are making a good faith effort to adapt our actions to a situation that neither we nor the hotel workers created and neither of which we nor the hotel workers can completely control. We are committed to taking every possible step we can possibly take to reach an acceptable solution."

He said moving the event is not a question of finances but of finding a large enough venue that could accommodate all the logistics involved with the media awards.

"Moving an event of this complexity at this stage would have an impact that would cascade through every aspect of an extremely complicated production like this. It would put the entire event at risk," he said. "It is not a cost-benefit calculation."

Bugbee stressed that GLAAD and the union share the same objective: to support the workers.

"We are two organizations that are not in conflict with each other on the basic principles and goals," he said.

Robert Haaland, a local labor activist who is spearheading the effort to convince GLAAD to relocate its event, said he is pleased to see that the organization is willing to discuss moving.

"That makes me happy," he said. "I think everyone just wants a solution. The letter is not meant to condemn them but show them the intense urgency we feel about them moving the event. It is not something they are going to hear unless we send them a letter."

Signers of the letter include Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bevan Dufty; former Supervisor Harry Britt; Police Commissioner

Theresa Sparks; Michael Goldstein, Democratic County Central Committee member; Carol Stuart, co-author of the city's equal benefits ordinance; Saskia Traill, vice president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Laura Spanjan, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club; and Howard Wallace, Pride at Work national co-founder.

"We usually count on GLAAD to advance the civil rights causes of queers. Their not recognizing the integrity of this action is very disappointing and very contradictory to what their mission is which was to my understanding anti-defamation," said Ammiano. "These hotel workers need as much support as possible, particularly from groups that stand for civil rights. I hope they change their mind."

LGBT supporters of the boycott say Local 2 in particular deserves the gay community's support. The union was one of the first in the country to fight for domestic partner benefits and pushed the hotels to set up a special HIV/AIDS fund so workers could afford their healthcare costs.

"They have been one of most supportive of the LGBT community," said Haaland. "I find it very unfortunate that GLAAD, a community organization committed to ensuring our civil rights, is dishonoring a group that has made every effort to make our lives better."

Gay union members are particularly upset at the resistance of GLAAD to relocate its media awards. They are already talking about picketing the night of the event if GLAAD remains at the St. Francis.

"I think, for me, what bothers me most about it is my union has been one of the most progressive forces for change in San Francisco of any group I can think of," said Bruce Patterson, a Local 2 trustee and union negotiator. "I appreciate and sympathize with what GLAAD has done but it doesn't seem consistent with what I see their values should be. There is no reason in using this hotel for this event when there are alternatives all over San Francisco they can use."

Haaland said that several local attorneys have offered their assistance pro bono to help GLAAD break its contract with the St. Francis as well as find a suitable location for its event.

"Plenty of groups have taken the step of breaking their contract and moving to other locations. I appreciate people have been willing to take those steps and certainly hope GLAAD takes every step to find another location," he said.

Other groups, too

It is not just GLAAD that faces pressure due to its use of a hotel being boycotted. Local LGBT groups are also being asked to move scheduled events to other venues or hotels.

The Academy of Friends plans to distribute checks from the money raised at its annual Oscar party to 14 Bay Area AIDS agencies at the Argent Hotel on May 17, but the Argent is among those being boycotted. The Gay and Les-

bian Tennis Association of San Francisco is using the St. Francis as its host hotel this year as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of the United States Gay Open. The annual tennis tournament's ending banquet will be held at the hotel on Sunday, May 29.

Patterson and Haaland said both groups should look for accommodations elsewhere.

"Absolutely, we are in a war here," said Patterson, who said many banquet workers are gay and face losing their healthcare benefits. "I hope that would bother people."

Haaland added, "One could understand that GLAAD, because it is not a local group, would not know about what is going on in San Francisco. But I think local groups should be held to a higher standard. I hope they make every effort to find other locations on behalf of the union members who have been there and stuck their necks out for us."

Elisabeth Loeffler, the academy's executive director, said the Argent had donated space for the event and that requests to move it were "news to me" when contacted this week by a reporter.

Steven Brown, president of the tennis association, said the union has contacted him about leaving the St. Francis but Brown said his board has no plans to switch hotels.

"It is wrong for the union to be harassing their clients. They need to settle their disagreement is all," said Brown. "We made plans to have our event at the hotel way before the contract expired. We stand to lose a lot if we try to move our event at this point. We hope members and attendees of our group understand that and don't boycott our event because we are not boycotting the hotels."

Brown said his group is caught in a Catch-22. Several members of the tennis group work at the St. Francis and Starwood has been a longtime supporter, recently becoming a sponsor of the national gay and lesbian tennis association.

"We have members of our organization who work for that hotel so why would we want to cut off their way of making a living?" he said. "I do empathize with the union and the people who work there who feel they are not being treated fairly. I wish everybody the best outcome."

Other gay groups have moved their events or made gestures of support to the union. Earlier this year Out and Equal Workplace Advocates moved a breakfast talk to a different venue after Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who was the keynote speaker, and others voiced concerns about attending a boycotted hotel. Last fall the organizers of the Gay and Lesbian Travel Expo said it was too late to move to a new venue and instead offered to donate the entrance fee to the union on behalf of anyone who asked.

Expo organizers may find themselves in the same bind this year if the union and the hotels cannot reach agreement on a new contract and the boycott drags on. The expo is slated for September 15 at the Hyatt Regency, which is on the boycott list. ▼

Araujo trial

◀ page 5

are likely to refuse to call her Gwen or refer to her as female in a stepped-up attempt to appeal to societal bias against transgender people," said Daley. "I'd be happy to be wrong and I'd be happy to see them step up and do some real lawyering but I think they're so

clouded by the transgender issue that they've really lost sight of what their role is supposed to be."

TLC, said Daley, will be on hand at the trial to do media outreach and education and to monitor the proceedings. Also on hand will be advocates from Community United Against Violence and representatives from the Horizons Foundation, which has launched a transgender education project in

Araujo's memory, already funding several speaking engagements for local schools.

"I think there will be a lot of déjà vu in terms of what both sides are going to say during this trial," said the Horizons Foundation's Julie Dorf. "Hopefully this time around there will be more agreement among the jurors, and the family can finally have some resolution." ▼

OBITUARIES

Melody Cole

Melody Cole, 48, went to be with the Lord on May 6th, 2005, in her sleep. Melody was born August 12, 1957 in Youngstown, Ohio and grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada. She leaves behind her partner, Cathy Ochirero, and three children, Danielle, Tyler, and Travis Cole.

Memorial services will be held for Melody on Sunday, May 15th at 7 p.m. in Rms. "A-B" at the Billy DeFrank Center located at 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA.

Please make any donations to Celebration Of Faith, Praise and Worship Center. For further information contact Rev. David Harvey at 408-345-2319.

Robert Hale

January 18, 1958 — April 28, 2005

Hardly a day will pass that one of Robert's many friends won't remember the beautiful windows that he created at IXIA Flowers on Market St. off Castro. Robert passed April 28, 2005, surrounded by his family, and partner Beau.

Robert was a talented and generous person, a strong and active force in the recovery community. He was born in El Centro and moved to San Francisco 26



years ago. Robert is survived by his parents Billie and Gloria Hale, Sister Elaine, her husband Robert, their son Chris, brother Mark and his two children Ryan and Regina, and brother David, as well as

life partner Beau Thomson.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held on May 14, 10:00 a.m. at the church he so loved, Glide United Methodist Church. The service will be followed by an opportunity to share memories of this special person's life in Freedom Hall. Robert has requested that donations be made to the Glide Hope Line, 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

Jack Thorp

Dr. Jack Thorp passed away on Wednesday, May 3, 2005 at San Francisco General Hospital. He was born September 5, 1931 in Beaconsfield, Iowa. His family moved to Okaloosa, Iowa in 1937 where they farmed. Jack graduated from Okaloosa High School in 1948. He went to Louisiana State University in

Baton Rouge where he was a member of Sigma Chi and earned a bachelors degree in premed. He later went to Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans where he graduated in 1956. A few years later he returned to Tulane and earned a degree in Psychiatry. He practiced in California until his retirement.

He enjoyed raising exotic floriculture and was an avid gardener. He was a patron of the theater and enjoyed international travel. He was active in bridge card groups and was an accomplished cook who loved to entertain. His compassionate nature extended to his many beloved pets.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Vern and Susan Thorp of Okaloosa; a nephew and his wife, Jim Thorp and Lisa Kenyon, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; a niece and her husband, Ann Thorp Brouwer and Corrie Brouwer, of Okaloosa, Iowa; and a niece and her husband, Lea Thorp and Michael Maloney, of Vancouver, Washington. He is survived also by several grand nieces and nephews, as well as many dear friends.

A memorial service was held. In lieu of flowers a memorial fund in his name is set up at South Bay Purebred Animal Rescue to receive donations: P.O. Box 23721, San Jose, CA 95153.

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Minocycline

Doctors wary of antibiotic

by Bob Roehr

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series looking at research of the drug minocycline.

The basic research paper showing that minocycline dramatically inhibits HIV replication was based on work in cell lines and only five monkeys. But it was conducted at Johns Hopkins University and prominently published in *JAMA*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

When one combines that high visibility with the fact that it deals with an affliction of the brain that is thought to be irreversible, it is inevitable that some patients and their doctors are not going to wait years for data from clinical trials—they are going to try minocycline now.

Conversations with a handful of leading HIV physicians around the country found a desire to believe in the basic research findings, tempered by the conservative nature of their profession and the experience of broken promises with other drugs that looked amazing in the lab but never panned out.

All of them were attracted to a possible new use of an old drug that is inexpensive and has proven to be very safe in large numbers of patients. But HIV patients can be different, the dosing is different, and industry is not going to pump money into a use that they can't patent. So answers from clinical trials likely are to be slow in coming.

"When I first heard about it I thought, 'well this is stupid.' When I first read the article, I thought it was interesting," said Dr. Doug Ward. He is a Washington, D.C. physician with a large HIV practice who has participated in many clinical trials.

The lab work in cell lines didn't impress him because "you can show antiviral effect of most anything." But the dramatic "neuro-protective effect was interesting" to Ward. However, it is unclear to him "how well their model correlates to the neuropathic effects of HIV in humans."

"That's very interesting, but call me when you do the trials," said Dr. Howard Grossman, not quite suppressing a yawn. He recently transitioned from a HIV medical practice in Manhattan to executive

director of the American Academy of HIV Medicine. He added, "I think this is way too preliminary."

His reticence is common among experienced HIV docs who have seen numerous drugs that look promising in the test tube, only to fail somewhere along the path of drug development.

Houston physician Joe Gathe has pushed the treatment envelope with a community-based trial of Kaletra monotherapy that has shown positive results. A combination of cost, toxicity, resistance and patients' "pill fatigue" drives him to find better options for long-term treatment of HIV.

"As a clinician, I may try this on patients with or at a high risk for neurocognitive impairment," Gathe said. But he is concerned about possible toxicity associated with long-term use of minocycline. He hopes to see human studies soon.

Ken Mayer, a physician at Fenway Community Health and an AIDS researcher at Brown University, said, "I think the data are interesting but much too preliminary for me to recommend this."

He also is concerned that long term use of minocycline might contribute to the growing problem of bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics.

Common staph infections are easy to treat and often resolve on their own, but the drug resistant variant (MRSA) that popped up a few years ago in California is much nastier; it's sometimes called flesh-eating bacteria. It hit gay men in Los Angeles particularly hard, sending many to the hospital for treatment, and some even required plastic surgery to repair the damage.

Grossman wondered if the biologic effect of minocycline would endure over the long run, or will the body and virus adapt and reduce the impact. He pointed out that the monkeys were on the drug only a little more than two months before they were euthanized.

Daniel Berger, medical director of Northstar Healthcare in Chicago, said that some of his long term HIV patients appear to be suffering a decline in brain function, even though their viral load remains undetectable.

Despite appearing to be physically healthy, one patient "was staring at the computer, losing track of thoughts, forgetting to



Dr. Ken Mayer

stop at the stop sign or stoplight ... he was not able to function neurologically at work" and had to retire on medical disability.

Berger would be willing to try minocycline with individual patients who have their viral load under control but who have "complaints of memory loss that seem to be out of proportion with what one should expect." The driving factor for him is, "You can never reverse damage to the brain. Once it happens, it's too late."

That is the fear that may drive many patients and doctors to try minocycline now, rather than wait the several years required to get data from a clinical trial.

Mayer is reluctant to try minocycline but said he might make an exception for a patient with a serious HIV-related neurological disease that isn't being helped by his current drug regimen.

Ward shares that reluctance but probably would write the prescription if the patient requested it. He would insist that the patient's liver functions be monitored very closely for at least the first few months.

The patient on a HAART regimen already is putting some stress on the liver and minocycline adds to the burden. The experience of safely using the drug for decades may not hold up because the dosing of minocycline being used in clinical trials for brain disorders is several times that used long-term to treat acne, and HIV patients may respond differently.

Berger would make sure to educate patients to possible side effects. About 1 in 10,000 patients have a hypersensitivity reaction to minocycline. "We know with bactrim [often used to treat lung infections], patients with HIV disease have a higher incidence of allergic reactions than the normal population."

And he cautioned, "I don't want patients going off of HAART to try minocycline." ▼

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SOLD OUT EVENT PRESENTED BY LOCAL DIVAS ON MAYDAY

WE WISH TO THANK OUR COMMUNITY FOR ITS SUPPORT

Good will and great food were on hand as attendees were treated to exquisite dining, first rate entertainment (including live music outdoors), influential guests including Supervisor Bevan Duffy and David Weinreich, the San Francisco LGBT liaison for Senator Carole Migden's office and a spring Sunday that was truly divine. Plans for a financially feasible mixed-income retirement village in San Francisco were presented in an atmosphere of caring, diversity, laughter and much fun.

WWW.OPENHOUSE-SF.ORG

From left: Supervisor Bevan Duffy, Linda Carlson, Executive Director for openhouse; Kimberly Smith of HMS Associates

senior community living with pride
openhouse

held a benefit brunch at

sumi

(formerly Ma Tante SUMI)
 at 4243 18th Street on May 1



Knocked out

by Jim Provenzano

Boxing is a sport filled with stories both heroic and tragic. It's understandable that films about the sport portray these themes, including the few with GLBT characters. While *Million Dollar Baby* won acclaim (and four Oscars), it has no clearly identified GLBT characters. A new, smaller independent film shows a different side of the sport with a gay angle that weaves success and tragedy into its plot.

JP Davis wrote and stars in *Fighting Tommy Riley*, now playing in local theaters. In the film, a young boxer nearly headed for "coulda been" status gets his skills honed by Marty, a deeply closeted trainer, played by veteran actor Eddie Jones (Seabiscuit).

"It's a cautionary tale about not living an authentic life," said Davis, who turned down studio offers to buy the film script, provided he made the trainer straight.

"The fact that Marty hides so much of himself — and his homosexuality — is a big issue," said director Eddie O'Flaherty. Both he and Davis honed the script to gradually reveal Marty's private life and torments. "We knew people who had gone through a similar experience," added O'Flaherty. "It's all about the paralyzing effects of fear."

Davis recalled the days when the inspiration for his film came about. While working out in a small, run-down Brooklyn gym, he observed an elderly trainer working with a young boxer. "I watched the guy spar," said Davis. "You could tell he wasn't going anywhere, but you could never convince the trainer. He's almost a caretaker. He's watching out for you completely. You could see the devotion involved."

Jones says his character's flaws are more about his personal failures than about sexuality. Despite Marty's poetic eloquence and maturity, he's been shunned from the sport. "He just had no place to go," said Jones of Marty's self-destruction. "But [Tommy and Marty] both have a chance to redeem themselves."

Similarly, Tommy suffers his own form of repression, and while being straight, deals with his trainer's sexuality with varying emotions, from compassion toward Marty to outrage at a promoter who demands that Tommy abandon Marty specifically because he's gay.

Davis's character remains clueless about Marty's being gay, until both characters have been firmly developed. Along with nuanced performances, Davis's athletic and intense performance brings fresh muscle to the cinematic tradition of boxing films. His years of training while waiting to get the film produced paid off.

But in shooting the final fight scene, Davis tells of working with actor and former professional boxer Don Wallace, who noticed Davis being too cautious.

"I'd trained but never really gotten hit," said Davis. "Finally, Don hit me, demanding I really hit him. So I did. Everything I'd learned finally came out. He smiled at me and said, 'You broke your cherry.'"

Another truthful aspect of *Fighting Tommy Riley* is that while homophobia in the ring may be a problem, it is sometimes



Writer/actor JP Davis in *Fighting Tommy Riley*

antigay management and promoters who make or vanquish entire careers if an athlete is gay or lesbian.

Only one male former professional boxer has come out, Canadian Mark LeDuc. A new documentary film, *Ring of Fire*, about 1960s welterweight champ Emile Griffith, broadcast recently on USA Network, posthumously outs Griffith as gay.

The subject of the 1999 documentary *Red Rain*, Gina Guidi, was the only competing out-of-the-closet athlete — male or female — in boxing. Before retiring in 2002, Guidi had a 15-1-1 record, and trained at Oakland's King's Gym, where 2004 Olympic champion Andre Ward also honed his fighting skills. Photos, clippings, and posters of many boxers, including Guidi, fill the walls of the gym.

Does Guidi feel a sense of responsibility or pride in being the only out lesbian in the sport?

"I think it's very important how I represent myself in both communities," Guidi said. "I don't always hold myself together as nicely as I'd like to, in a cute little package, but I have learned how to deal with things on a more mature level, not on a boxer's level."

Guidi told of encounters where her being out led to affronts with

the locals at some bouts. "We'd walk in and hear, 'Dykes,' or whatever. I'd turn and smile, and kill 'em with kindness. I did my job in the twenty-squared [the ring]."

But it may have been homophobia that limited Guidi's career. The Women's International Boxing Federation refused her offer to fight the Polish then-world champion. Ranked among the top 10 women boxers at the time, her toughest battles were not with other boxers, but those who control the competition.

Several high-profile women boxers, including Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, refused matches with Guidi, perhaps knowing full well that their title belts would have become a memory.

"There are so many lesbian boxers, and they're all in the closet," said Guidi. "It's sad. Some boxers are being handled by people who say, 'Don't do it. You'll miss out on endorsements.' I've never been closeted. I just don't think it's necessary." ▼

Fighting Tommy Riley is now playing at AMC (1000 Van Ness Avenue) and Presidio (2340 Chestnut) theaters.
 www.fightingtommyriley.com/home. For info about boxing in Oakland, visit www.eastokland.com/kings.htm. Read more columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TTKD kick-a-thon and self-defense seminar

Triangle Taekwon Do's annual kick-a-thon on Saturday, May 14 at 1 p.m. at Dolores Park, benefits both June Pride Fest, and enables Triangle to hold self-defense seminars for other nonprofit organizations. The members have been collecting sponsor pledges, and in order to earn the pledges they must perform 1,000 kicks in an hour (or 17 kicks per minute).

A self-defense seminar will be held by Triangle Taekwon Do on Friday, May 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the SF LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. The seminar will be led by experienced black-belt instructors, and will focus on self-defense concepts, recognition of potential danger, conflict assessment and de-escalation techniques, and legal responsibilities of the defender. Reserving a space for the seminar is recommended (cost is \$20), and can be made by calling (415) 865-5555 or logging on to www.sfcenter.org. For more info, call (415) 495-1888 or e-mail info@triangleretkd.org.

Fundraisers

The SF Menace softball team (currently undefeated 9-0) will play this Sunday, May 15, along with lots of other GSL softball teams, at Crocker Amazon Park. But the SF Menace's beer benefit fundraiser is afterward, at the Detour, 2348 Market Street, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club's beer benefit fundraiser is also Sunday, May 15, from 3 to 6 p.m. To raise funds for expenses, including the trip to Chicago in 2006 for Gay Games VII, they'll be serving the best Italian food this side of Noe Valley, at the Eagle Tavern, 12th Street and Harrison. For more info, visit www.ggwc.org. ▼

Honoring Christen



Courtesy San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Pat Christen, left, the former executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, received the James R. Harrison Award from Paul Wisotzky, current chair of the foundation's Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation board, at SFAF's 18th annual Leadership Recognition Dinner, held May 5 at Fort Mason. Since leaving SFAF last year, after 15 years at the helm, Christen has served as the president of HopeLab, a nonprofit in Palo Alto that develops cutting edge interventions for young people with chronic illnesses.

Gay sperm ban

◀ page 1

are screened for diseases at the time of sperm donation, then re-screened every three months. All sperm is frozen for 180 days to ensure that the donor is healthy. Such stringent guidelines, she said, are considered scientifically sound for sperm donation. The FDA regulations were meant to standardize all tissue donation, she said, but unlike other types of tissue, sperm can be quarantined while a donor undergoes repeat testing.

FDA spokeswoman Lenore Gelb expressed doubt as to how separate the guidelines were from the regulations, but acknowledged that the regulations allow facilities to create their own safety criteria.

"The guidance in and of itself doesn't have the power of regulation," said Gelb. "However, the regulation requires adequate screening and testing of donors. FDA's guidance to the industry is considered the scientific consensus on adequate screening and testing. It's true that within the guidance, somebody could come up with alternate approach. If someone wanted to do something differently, it would have to be evaluated by the FDA as to whether it was adequate."

Ruby and Traiman said that such an evaluation would find that science and the law are on their side. They noted that the FDA guidelines around men who have sex with men only apply to anonymous donors, and that gay men are not mentioned in regulations or guidance pertaining to directed donors.

"The good news that nobody is talking about is directed donors," said Ruby. "The FDA initially

wanted to ban gay directed donors, but it's very clear, regardless of how one reads the guidelines versus the regulations, that a man doesn't have to meet all the eligibility criteria of the anonymous donor program to be somebody's directed donor."

Most of the gay donors at Sperm Bank of California, said Ruby, are directed donors, not anonymous donors. There are several reasons that people who know each other may want to go through a donor program rather than have intimate relations for the sake of procreation. The rigorous screening process for all sperm is one benefit. Additionally, signing sperm over to a physician or bank is the only way to terminate parental rights.

Many of the sperm banks that currently do not accept gay donors adopted such policies in anticipation of an FDA ban. Whether the FDA's new openness toward gay directed donors will persuade some sperm banks to accept such donors is unclear. More likely, said Traiman, the guidance in the FDA regulations pertaining to anonymous gay donors will reinforce some banks' previous decisions to ban gay sperm, and challenge others to reevaluate their bans.

"It's an intimidation tactic. It produces an atmosphere of fear. But the question is, are you going to follow this non legally binding document or are you going to look at science and say 'no' to being intimidated by bigotry?" said Traiman. "What are the repercussions if I use gay sperm? None. Unless we stand up to these homophobic bullies, people are going to cower to them."

The FDA regulations can be found on-line at www.fda.gov/cber/rules/suitdonor.htm. ▼

HIV names bill

◀ page 2

sense. The CDC needs accurate data, not names. There are other solutions that have not been fully explored, such as modifying the unique identifier system and compelling the federal government to accept California's current data," he said.

Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, also hailed the judiciary committee's decision not to rush a vote on Soto's bill. The foundation has long opposed using names-based reporting.

"We are in a position to wait until we see what Congress does before we make this significant a change. We agree there is some

potential for the state to lose money if it becomes clear we are required to move to names reporting and don't do it. But we are not at that point yet," he said.

Van Gorder chastised AHF for its claims that the state is already losing money since in the last three years the state has only been required to report AIDS cases in order to receive federal dollars.

"They have pulled some figures out of the air that we think are hard to justify. We think they have been alarming people without justification for their notion," he said. "It is simply erroneous to say California lost any money the last three years because we haven't moved to HIV cases. I am not sure if they are making a gross mistake when insisting on this from the LGBT caucus or what their thinking was." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0284591-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Michael A. Rhea Photography, 1090 Eddy St. Apt. 306 San Francisco, Ca., 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael A. Rhea. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/14/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/14/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284531-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bakir De Thai, 400 Valencia St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Vena Shovite yarata. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284493-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rentals InSF, 1318 Hayes St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jackie Tom. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/13/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284491-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Coming Out Productions, 186 Commonwealth Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard Kemp. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 21, 28, MAY 5, 12 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541967
In the matter of the application of Yuen Wang Yu for change of name. The application of Yuen Wang Yu for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yuen Wang Yu has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Peter Wang Yu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 21, 28 MAY 5, 12 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541994
In the matter of the application of Chi Wang Yu for change of name. The application of Chi Wang Yu for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chi Wang Yu has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to John Yu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 16th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 21, 28 MAY 5, 12 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284845-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucid Gallery, 580 Sutter St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Clint Worden. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/25/05.
APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284788-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Weird Fish, 2193 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Peter Hood. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/22/05.
APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284711-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sterling Ventures, 1388 Haight St. #95 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sterling B. Scott II. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/20/05.
APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284766-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Belgano Chocolatier & Gelateria, 3901 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Randall Jensen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/21/05.
APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AS-NEEDED LEGAL SERVICES FOR SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY (Solicitation No. 05-510-RFP-022)
The San Francisco Housing Authority is soliciting Request for Proposals from experienced law firms and solo practitioners to provide legal services on an as-needed basis for the San Francisco Housing Authority in the City and County of San Francisco, California.

All submissions of documents must be in by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2005. For more detailed information and for a copy of the RFP package and other requirements, please email procurement@sfaa.org or fax (415) 554-1258.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL AUDITING SERVICES FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY
The San Francisco Housing Authority is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide Annual Auditing Services of the Authority's accounts and records for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2005, twelve month period ending September 30, 2006, and any subsequent periods that are agreed upon by the Authority and the successful auditing firm.

All submissions of documents must be in by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2005. For more detailed information and for a copy of the RFP package and other requirements, please email procurement@sfaa.org or fax (415) 554-1258.

Informational Meetings: The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will hold informational meetings on its \$4.3 billion Water System Improvement Program and the upcoming environmental review process for that Program. Meetings will be held in Modesto (5/12), Fremont (5/17), San Francisco (5/19) and Belmont (5/23) from 7 to 9 pm. The San Francisco meeting will be at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Drive (near 19th Ave). For more details, visit sfwater.org (click on the PEIR button) or call (415) 554-3237.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR YOUTH PHILANTHROPY PROJECT: The Department of Children and Their Families (DCYF) announces the availability of funds to implement a youth to youth grant-making program for projects across the city. DCYF plans to award a grant of up to \$390,000 for the grant period of August 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 with an extension of an additional grant up to \$425,000 for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 based on the availability of funds and the performance of the grantee. Copies of the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on May 9, 2005 at the DCYF office or can be downloaded from the DCYF website (www.dcyf.org).

Proposal submissions must be received by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2005. Late submissions will not be accepted. Submittals are due to DCYF, 1390 Market Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94102.

A non mandatory bidders' conference will take place on May 12, 2005, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, at DCYF, 1390 Market Street, Suite 900.

For further information, contact Nani A. Colorette at (415) 554-8959.

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://www.sfgov.org/site/sbdsprvs> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

STATEMENT FILE A-0284528-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: John Griffin Photography, 1072 Folsom St. #400 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Griffin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/13/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/13/05.
APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541994
In the matter of the application of Dennis Robert Badagliacco for change of name. The application of Dennis Robert Badagliacco for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dennis Robert Badagliacco has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dennis Robert Jefferson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 28 MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541981

In the matter of the application of Melissa Marie Magglio-Smda for change of name. The application of Melissa Marie Magglio-Smda for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Melissa Marie Magglio-Smda has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alessandra Mel Vitale. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 28th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 28 MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541995

In the matter of the application of Jonathan Timothy Bobst-McKay for change of name. The application of Jonathan Timothy Bobst-McKay for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jonathan Timothy Bobst-McKay has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jonathan Timothy Bobst. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 28 MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS # 295

Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency is seeking proposals to conduct a study of the homeless caseload decline experienced by the CAAP Program as a result of implementation of the Care Not Cash initiative.
A RFP package can be picked up at SFHSA, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Monday, May 9, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.sfgov.org/ocm/purchasing.htm> click "BIDS and Contracts Database", then the "Consultants and Professional Services" link and look for RFP #295.
For further information, call Paousun Yun at (415) 557-6523. Due date for responses is June 1, 2005 at 3:00 PM. NO EXCEPTIONS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Western Host INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 125 Third St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. Type of license applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284941-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B + L Interiors, LLC, 407 10th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Cray Baumann Flynn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/28/05.
MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285008-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frucil Grounds, 1813 Fulton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Jorge Cortes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 10, 1995. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/02/05.
MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284956-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tableworks, 2588 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jamie Owens. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/29/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/29/05.
MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542001
In the matter of the application of Win Thaw 00 for change of name. The application of Win Thaw 00 for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Win Thaw 00 has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ryan Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 16th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Hari Krishan Lal and Resham Singh. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 602 Hayes St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. Type of License applied for:
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
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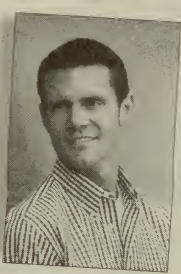
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0284602-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Trainer Martin, 160 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Martin Spector. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/15/05.
MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are California Culinary Academy, Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 350 Rhode Island St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
MAY 5, 12, 19, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285178-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lassen Tours, 391 Sutter St. Ste. 504, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Judy Swen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05.
MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285004-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Art & Soul Gallery, 1844 Divisadero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Chesney Rheume. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/2/05.
MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285102-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Seal Rock Realty, 3775 35th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nick Kaskanlian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/4/05.
MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285198-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: iStudio, 89 France Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Long Wu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/9/05.
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Deep in the heart of the country
Battle for sex ed in Texas, more from the
2005 edition of SF's Documentary Fest.
page 34

Queer and incoming
'Hush Up,' 'Watch Me
Shine,' theatre to come.
page 31



'Monster' mash
Actress Jane Fonda returns
to screen, chews scenery.
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 19 • 12 May 2005

Real! Live! Girls!



Robin Greenspan (left) and
Lacie Harmon in *Girl Play*

Unlikely lesbian lovers at the Roxie Cinema by David Lamble

In the new film *Girl Play* two women cast as unlikely lovers in a theatre comedy about the perils of lesbian bed-death find that their real lives can't compete with their on-stage chemistry. Based on the true-life romance, marriage and professional union of the lead performers and co-writers, Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, *Girl Play* is funny, sad and wise about escaping the ties that bind before they choke. The girls escape, too, from a townhouse love-nest that is

a tad overstocked, as Robin explains: "a cocker spaniel, circle of friends, favorite restaurants within a five-mile radius, mutual funds (not too aggressive), a guest room for when we're not speaking, a CD collection, vacation videos, engagement rings — our whole future completely mapped out."

At first, *Girl Play*'s theatre roots show, and we fear we're in for a metronome of matching monologues, clever but stagebound. First, there's Robin's all-too-fa-

miliar Jewish family — in a casting coup, Mink Stole gives us castrating Jewish-mother lite. Imagine if they had had the budget for Anne Bancroft! Robin's girl-tren crushes segue to Lacie's Aryan clan of hard-drinking blondes, leading, she admits, to a romantic career encompassing two long-term relationships: the first, with an older man, is left to our imaginations; and the second, to a supposedly ideal female, is staged in its dying mo-

page 38 ►

Photo courtesy of Wolfe Releasing



Photo courtesy of Showtime

Sisters are doing it for themselves

The L Word stars at Lyon Martin Women's Health Services fundraiser

by Kris Scott Marti

Last Friday night's *Party for a Cause* at The Sound Factory provided an opportunity for over 1,500 members of the Bay Area lesbian community to dress up and rub shoulders with the stars of Showtime's *The L Word*. Creator/Executive Producer Ilene Chaiken and cast members Sarah Shahi (Carmen) and Laurel Holloman (Tina) came out to support the Lyon Martin Women's Health Services fundraiser auction and 25th anniversary celebration. Assisting members of TV's hottest lesbian drama with the auction as local celebrity emcees were author Jewelle Gomez and San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, adding to a group effort from most of San Francisco's well-known lesbian club promoters and DJs.

In the VIP Lounge, Shahi, Holloman, and Chaiken posed for photos with fans while DJs spun house tunes for the gorgeous and well-

heeled crowd of 300 thrilled women. In the Green Room, Chaiken told me that she heard about Lyon Martin Women's Health Services through a friend of her mother, who got in touch with Showtime. She said the network supports Lyon Martin as they've consistently supported lesbian organizations. "And it's fabulous!"

Shahi, who learned about Lyon Martin through the film *No Secret Anymore*, about Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's life, discussed enjoying her premiere season on *The L Word* for the human-rights aspects of the show. Shahi said, "I hope people think it's worth watching."

The evening highlights included the lovely Shahi, wearing a form-fitting, black satin dress and blue sweatshirt, opening the auction by announcing, "I get to kiss on Shane [played by Katherine Moenig], and this is one of her shirts, so you get a two-for-one!"

She then proceeded to peel off the shirt to riotous applause and a winning bid of \$1,300, paid

page 38 ►

Reynolds wrap and paparazzi pap

Coming this summer: Debbie does the Castro!



Debbie Reynolds in her heyday.

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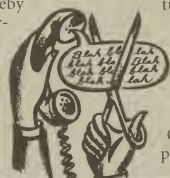
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by Roberto Friedman

Readers who haven't seen the patented **Marc Huestis** name in bold for a while will be happy to know he's getting together a really big show for the summer. Drum roll please, because *Out There* hereby presents the print-version scoop that *The Unsinkable Debbie Reynolds* will take the stage of the Castro Theatre on Friday, July 22. OMG, **Debbie Reynolds** in person!

The dishiest mouth in Hollywood, self-described as full of "vim 'n' vinegar, punch 'n' pizzazz," will be interviewed by none other than *Poseidon* queen and Marc's good girlfriend **Carol Lynley**. Those youngsters who might only know Miss Reynolds as **Carrie Fisher's** mom will just have to Google her to see that she is one of Hollywood's biggest living legends. From her star turn in *Singing in the Rain* to her appearances as Grace's mother Bobbi Adler on *Will & Grace*, to real-life dramas with **Eddie & Liz**, Debbie did it all — and will tell it all to the assembled throngs. But wait, there's



Out There

more! Bubbly **Connie Champagne** is putting the **Judy** wig in a box (temporarily, we do so hope) to do Debbie on stage (well, not literally) by singing "I Ain't Down Yet." Amen, baby.

Plus, there will be a screening of a pristine new print of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* featuring Reynolds' Oscar-nominated performance. Expect plenty o' special surprises to mark Huestis' 10th-year celebration of extravaganzas at ye olde Castro Theatre. Partial proceeds benefit **Project**

Open Hand, Lucky OT readers can call (415) 863-0611 for tix — tell 'em

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Plummy nights

Time to catch up with *Out There's* busy appointment book. Last Tuesday night found us at the Post St. Theatre for opening night of **Bebe Neuwirth** in *Here Lies Jenny*, but we may as well have been in a Weimar Era speakeasy, savoring those plangent **Kurt Weill** minor chords. Here's a shout-out to Post St. bartender **David Fielder**, who always has his hands full on press nights.

Next p.m., we were blown away by actor **Jefferson Mays** playing multitudes in *I Am My Own Wife* at the Curran Theatre. During intermission, photographer **Rick Gerharter** shared reminiscences of meeting and snapping *Wife* subject **Charlotte von Mahlsdorf** in 1991 Berlin. Also in the audience: porn legend **Peter Berlin**, to whom OT was graciously introduced by **Lawrence Helman**, co-producer of **Jim Tushinski's** *That Man: Peter Berlin* doc currently making the film-fest circuit.

Closing-night festivities for the 48th San Francisco International Film Fest at the Castro Theatre began with SFIFF exec. dir. **Roxanne Messina** Captor's ritual reading of the winners' names for



Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, inspiration for *I Am My Own Wife*, in Berlin '91

the major competitions. Both the Skyy Prize for first narrative feature and the VirginMega Audience Award for best narrative feature went to *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, directed by **Miranda July**. The audience award for best documentary feature went to *Pursuit of Equality*, starring San Francisco as *The City That Knows* How to issue same-sex marriage licenses. Directors **Geoff Gallan** and **Mike Shaw** thanked their film's early sponsors, including the **Bob Ross Foundation**.

The big closing-night film was the premiere of playwright/screenwriter **Craig Lucas'** directing debut, *The Dying Gaul*, starring indie-royalty actors **Campbell Scott**, **Patricia Clarkson** and yummy **Peter Sarsgaard**. OT admits to a huge lech on for Sarsgaard, ever since we saw him beautifully play editor-as-hero in *Shattered Glass*. Pre-Glass, we'd say you have to go back to ancient times, **Redford** and **Hoffman** in *All the Prez's Men*, to find better screentime of media-as-hero.

Recently, pulchritudinous Peter added erotic interest to *Kinsey* by seducing gentle sexologist **Liam Neeson** into some healthy man-on-man action. In that film, we also got a fleeting glimpse of the Sarsgaard bod, beefy in all the best places.

Alas, we had no Peter sighting at SFIFF. Clarkson took the stage with *Gaul* producers, modestly protesting that she was just "a dumb actress." P-shaw, Patty! In the film, Clarkson portrays a bi Hollywood mogul's psycho wife who pretends to be the virtual incarnation of gay screenwriter Robert (PS)'s dear departed lover, come back to life in an Internet chatroom. Truly sicko. In one scene, "doggy btm" Peter's sniffing poppers whilst jacking off in the ghoulsh blue glow of his 'puter screen. Did we really need to see

that? No, possums, no.

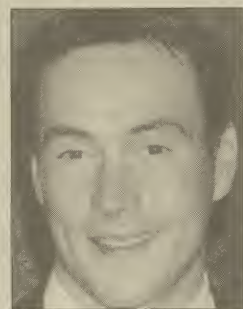
Wrap party was at straight nightclub *Suede*. Did it feel strange to be partying hearty with heteros after watching a movie about a gay man selling out to Ho'wood by changing his screenplay from gay to straight? Yes, green gay grasshopper, it did.

Pull up to the bumper

Need to gay up that fossil-fueled vehicle you use to pollute around town? Choose a slogan from *I Can't Even Drive Straight!*, a collection of "gay pride bumper-sticker postcards" from Chronicle Books, coming out for gay merchandising month. The brightly-colored stickers proclaim legends like, "If God Didn't Make Homosexuals, There Wouldn't Be Any" and "Honk If You're a Homo!" There's even the inevitable **Stephen Sondheim** riff, a bumper sticker which tells the world, "I Feel Pretty, and Witty, and Gay!" That's all very nice, dear.

We have pretty, witty feelings about the pupils-big-as-dinner-plates mug-shot of humpy movie actor **Chris Klein** newly featured on *The Smoking Gun* in light of his recent DUI arrest and charges

page 44 ►



Chris Klein, celebrity product

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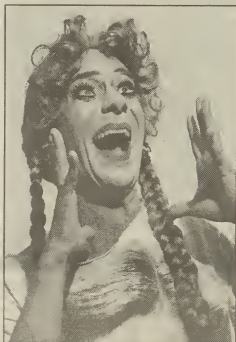
The long, hot, gay summer

Queerish and coming to Bay Area stages in the 'off' season

by Richard Dodds

Summer has long been a time when most theaters slumbered, and Shakespeare became the main event. But this summer will see an unusual number of special attractions in the theatrical competition with the Bard, and at least half have a decidedly queerish bent.

Ambitiously queerish is the term for *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, which is planning on a three-month run at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre beginning June 1. But starring Matthew Martin, the Bay Area's premiere drag performer, and Varla Jean Merman, one of the most celebrated drag performers in all the land, this parody of *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* may have legs.



Matthew Martin in *Hush Up...*

The 1964 southern-gothic thriller starred Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland in roles that Martin and Merman, respectively, will play. Martin, famous around these parts for his Bette Davis channeling, first starred in *Hush Up* in 1994. He is also the director this time around. More info at 474-8800 or makeitsoproductions.org.

Can anyone top Cate Blanchett's Oscar-winning turn as Kate Hepburn in *The Aviator*? Well, we haven't yet seen Kate Mulgrew's performance as Hepburn, but she did get there first. The star of *Star Trek: Voyager* first



Kate Mulgrew in *Tea at Five*.

performed Matthew Lombardo's one-woman play *Tea at Five* in 2003, and is returning to the role, in which Hepburn reminisces about life and career, for a 19-performance run beginning June 2 at the Marines Memorial Theatre. Call 771-6900 or go to ticketmaster.com.

Don't have much time to spare during June's Pride festivities? *Watch Me Shine* promises a musical history of the gay and lesbian experience in about an hour. A three-week run begins June 1 at Michael's Octavia Lounge.

Watch Me Shine is the creation of BAR contributor Adam Sandel (book and lyrics) and Richard Link (music). The 22-song revue starts its journey in the closeted 1920s and includes stops in the liberated '70s and the AIDS-ravaged '80s before arriving in the present day. Tickets at (800) 595-4849 or watchmeshinethemusical.com.

The Peninsula's TheatreWorks latest excursion in moving a show to San Francisco is the millinery musical *Crowns*, checking into Marines Memorial on July 12 for a six-week engagement after its takeover run in Mountain View.

Adapted by Regina Taylor from the book *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, the musical tells the story of a street-smart girl from Brooklyn sent to live with her grandmother in South Carolina. Call 771-6900 or go to ticketmaster.com.

Former SF comic Dan Rothenberg is returning with *Regretrosexual*, his personal story of coming out and going in—that is, deciding that he wasn't really gay after building a standup career around his orientation. Now living in LA, the solo play focuses on how the bi-leaning-toward-straight Rothenberg broke the news to his fiancée about his *tres* gay years in the Bay Area.

Rothenberg first performed a short workshop run of *Regretrosexual* at the Phoenix Theatre in February, and that's the venue for the July 21-Aug. 27 run. Call 820-1457 or go to regretrosexual.com.

San Jose Rep has something queer and something eccentric for its warm-weather specials. First there is Kate Clinton, the granddame of lesbian comics, performing a stand-up concert on May 16. And then the postmodern clown known as Avner the Eccentric arrives on June 11 for a five-week run of *Exceptions to Gravity*. Call (408) 367-7255 or go to sanjoserrep.org.

"Not for the faint of heart," warned the San Diego *Union-Tribune's* theater critic when writing about *Mapplethorpe: The Opening*. The New Conservatory Theatre Center has recently added this solo work to its schedule, beginning a two-week run on Aug. 21.

Writer-performer Brian Quirk offers a refracted portrait of controversial artist Robert Mapplethorpe through the eyes of the various guests at his first sex photography exhibit in New York in 1977. Among those whom Quirk impersonates are Andy Warhol, Diana Vreeland, Patti Smith, his high school girlfriend, and a host of male lovers.

"The writing is as graphic about Mapplethorpe's sexual



Gay and lesbian musical history will be explored in *Watch Me Shine*.

predilections," wrote the San Diego critic, "as are the images in his notorious explorations of sadomasochism." Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

Now back to...

... our regularly scheduled

programming. Both Theatre Rhino and New Conservatory have splashy, goofy musicals opening soon as part of their waning '04-'05 seasons.

New Conservatory follows up last year's success with *When Pigs Fly* with another Howard Crab-

tree creation. *Whoop-De-Dool!*, opening May 21, uses outlandish costumes and props to help sell the collection of skits and songs as the character Howard tries to put on another show on a shoestring budget with balky actors and on-going calamities. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

At Theatre Rhino, Artistic Director John Fisher revives his triumphant variation on Greek tragedy, *Medea: The Musical*, opening a four-week run on May 26, was first performed as a college production at Berkeley before transferring to a successful downtown-SF run in 1996. The award-winning show follows the tribulations of a manic director as he tries to stage a pro-gay, feminist pop musical based on the Greek tragedy. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Vintage tranny

'I Am My Own Wife' is sold as is

by Richard Dodds

When someone is called a survivor, it's usually meant as a compliment. But survivors don't live in a pristine bubble, and since we all know that every action causes an equal reaction, the actions needed to ensure survival may cause suffering in another. Who, then, is the hero? Playwright Doug Wright (*Quills*) thought he had found a gay hero in Lothar Berfelde, an eccentric transvestite who managed to survive both the Nazis and the Communists before Germany was reunited. But as Wright shows in the uncommonly compelling *I Am My Own Wife*, hero worship has a much shorter shelf-life than celebrations of human complexity.

The theatrical heroics of actor Jefferson Mays show no sign of yellowing. Dressed in a simple black dress, orthopedic shoes, and a headscarf, Mays portrays not only Berfelde's alter ego Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, but a large cast of other characters that include East German thugs, twangy Texans, redneck GIs, and a glib talk-show host. Mays does so with the ability of a skilled vocal chameleon, and with vocal shifts of body language that negate the need for any costume changes. Ironically, Charlotte is the most demure of the lot.

One of those characters is the playwright himself, played by

Mays as something of a nervous nelly who dramatizes his journey of discovery, frustration, and confusion as he tries to reveal the increasingly elusive Charlotte. Most of the text is based on Wright's numerous interviews with Charlotte at the self-curated museum she ran out of her home, but every time he seems to grab onto a dicey truth, it starts to slip away.

The entire back wall of the theater is filled with vintage furniture, bric-a-brac, and most prominently, a dozen or more antique gramophones with their distinctively flared horns. Charlotte sees her museum as a protectorate of neglected treasures, and she charms us with her devotion to even the

nicks and scratches on a piece of period furniture. But this "granny tranny," as Wright calls her, was also an informer for the East German secret police, may have killed his abusive father, and ran an informal sex club in her museum. She also liked to be spanked, but not if it meant missing the chance to buy an antique clock. To be late for an appointment with a clock-maker is the height of rudeness, Charlotte tells us.

In Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, Wright and director Moises Kaufman (*The Laramie Project*) found a complex and fascinating character, and they present the good, the bad, and the ugly of that character without moralistic certitude.



Jefferson Mays as Lothar Berfelde/Charlotte von Mahlsdorf.

It's left to the audience to decide if this is a survivor to be celebrated as well as so entertainingly chronicled. ▼

I Am My Own Wife runs at Curran Theatre through May 29. Tix are \$40-\$72. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

Pair of lost souls

ACT's full 'Moon for the Misbegotten'

by Richard Dodds

We must forgive actress Robin Weigert for not being an "overgrown lump of a woman" and the "big ugly hulk," as her character in *A Moon for the Misbegotten* describes herself. Weigert, in fact, is a trim woman of unexceptional proportions who, despite the ob-

vious efforts to keep her positioned on raised platforms, is clearly not the awkward Amazon that Eugene O'Neill described in his play.

But she is forgiven because she delivers such a rich, warm, and heartfelt performance as Josie Hogan, a tough-talking earth mother, in ACT's production at the Geary Theater. Previously seen locally in ACT's *Goodnight Chil-*

dren Everywhere, she has more recently gained a national following as proto-lesbian Calamity Jane in the HBO series *Deadwood*.

In *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, Weigert plays a character who proudly claims to have bedded many men, an easy virtue that turns out to be a defensive ruse. But she is willing to reinvent herself for the sake of one man whom she fantasizes she can save from self-destruction by offering her bed.

That man is James Tyrone Jr., next page ►



Robin Weigert, Marco Barricelli.

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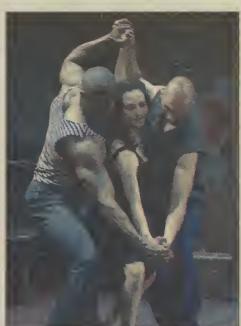
by Richard Dodds

When the bartender finally sings in *Here Lies Jenny*, it's like a revelation. Not that Broadway veteran Martin Vidnovic's voice is so out-of-this-world; he has a solid and appealing sound. But coming after Bebe Neuwirth has warbled her way through several Kurt Weill compositions, it's a stunning voice by comparison.

With her pinched vibrato, Neuwirth's vocals can hardly be called a thing of beautiful expression. She may be in heartfelt touch with the emotional core of the selections, but with only a few exceptions, that passion is hard to appreciate on the other side of the footlights.

Then there's the Lilith conundrum. Most likely, Neuwirth wouldn't have the marquee power to justify the booking of *Here Lies Jenny* at the Post Street Theatre following a New York run had she not become a national celebrity thanks to her role on *Cheers*. But it's impossible not to still hear the comically humorless Lilith whenever Neuwirth opens her mouth, and it's not an association you want with this repertoire.

Here Lies Jenny was specifically created for Neuwirth by director Roger Rees, using Weill songs written with a variety of lyricists to impressionistically tell the story of a broken woman who stumbles into a last-chance saloon. Neuwirth is at her best when the



Bebe Neuwirth in NYC production.

songs are at their most playful and/or up-tempo, as with her effective delivery of Ira Gershwin's lyrics for "The Saga of Jenny."

There is also pleasant distraction in the intermittent dance movements provided by Ann Reinking and performed by Neuwirth with Angelo Fraboni and Dennis Stowe as two tough denizens of the bar. Diane Hidy does good musical work as the bar's pianist, even if she is incongruously prim for this watering hole from hell. ▼

Here Lies Jenny will run at the Post Street Theatre through May 25. Tickets are \$35-\$55. Call 771-6900 or go to ticketmaster.com.

Blood lines

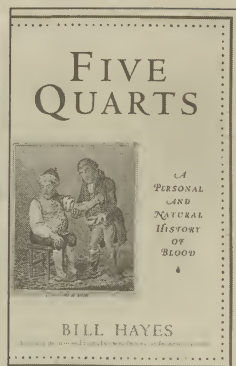
by Jim Nawrocki

Five Quarts: A Personal and Natural History of Blood by Bill Hayes; Ballantine Books, \$23.95

When English physician William Harvey penned *De Motu Cordis* in 1628, his book that described the circulation of the blood and thus revolutionized our understanding of the human body, he likened "the heart of creatures" to "the sun of their microcosm." To the modern sensibility, such a blend of serious science and fanciful metaphor seems odd. But as Bill Hayes points out in his new book, *Five Quarts: A Personal and Natural History of Blood*, Harvey's poetic flair actually helped his radical idea gain acceptance.

Like Harvey, Hayes has written a book that is animated by an artful blend of science and metaphor. As both a history and a memoir, it is also similar to the work of neurologist-writer Oliver Sachs, whose popular books weave engaging descriptions of brain disorders and other medical topics with equally engaging riffs on history and personal memoir. Hayes has produced a work that makes science grandly entertaining. Of course he is helped by the fact that his subject matter has inspired a rich tradition of mythology and symbolism, and this tradition serves him well in his writing.

Beginning with the Greek physician Galen's studies of blood and bloodletting, Hayes takes us on a fascinating tour of how we have come to know what we know about blood. He does a particularly good job of bringing to life the people who directly or indirectly advanced our knowledge of blood. One example is his discussion of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, the 17th-century freelance scientist who perfected the microscope and thus helped scientists see the actual components of blood. In an effort to understand how a novice scientist like Leeuwenhoek could accomplish what he did with such



humble materials, Hayes visits a Berkeley-based researcher who has constructed replicas of the Dutchman's quaint microscopes, offering first-hand descriptions of what it's like to use the tiny instruments.

Cutting edge

If the history of the medical establishment's understanding of blood is one current in this book, then personal history is another, and perhaps the stronger of the two. Hayes gives us a very intimate, honest look at how blood has shaped his life. In a scene reminiscent of Sylvia Plath's famous poem "Cutting," Hayes begins with a description of a cut finger, and the sight and taste of his own blood. From there (as he alternates between history and memoir) Hayes describes what it was like growing up as the only boy among five sisters, watching them endure the physical and psychological pains of menstruation. Hayes' portrayal of his sisters' suffering is both highly sympathetic and clinically detached. He offers moving descriptions of how they got through their difficult transition to womanhood, and throws out, with anthropological aplomb, quirky details about how other cultures have treated menstruating women.

Hayes' description of his life with his sisters is also a testament

to his relationship with his family and his own difficult transition growing up gay and coming out to his family. Though Hayes does not dwell at length on his coming out process, he does devote considerable reflection to one very significant aspect of blood in his own life as a gay man, the HIV-positive blood of his partner Steve. With economy and grace, Hayes offers a brief history of HIV and examines the state of current HIV research from the perspective of the experience he shares with Steve. He also interviews prominent AIDS researchers such as Jay Levy, as well as phlebotomists and other health-care workers.

As a longtime Castro resident, Hayes is able to provide valuable perspective on how AIDS changed the Castro and SF as a whole. There's one particularly poignant scene in which he and Steve visit the old Hayes St. Muscle System gym soon after it shuts down for good. Remembering a friend and gym regular who died of HIV complications, Hayes writes, "Now his ghost is here, behind these mirrors, together with all of the city's most beautiful dead. They watch us as we stare at ourselves, all lined up, clutching the weights." Though Hayes speaks with the bittersweet voice of a veteran who has seen many friends die, his tone is ultimately hopeful. In writing about the complexities of scientific research, the breadth of history, and his own highly personal experience of blood, Hayes takes on a difficult task in *Five Quarts*, and he does it very well. ▼

Misbegotten

◀ previous page

the hard-drinking older brother first seen in O'Neill's autobiographical *Long Day's Journey into Night*. But this is a far different play, more of a moon-drenched fantasy that provides the guilt-ridden character with an absolution while O'Neill's actual older brother lay dying in a sanitarium. Director Laird Williamson provides a steady tone for this lyrical and, at times, rambling play.

As Weigert does not suggest an overgrown lump, the sturdy Marco Barricelli is not a poster child for alcoholic dissipation. But he movingly plays Jim Tyrone, a role he also played in ACT's *Long Day's Journey*, especially when the character is at his most vulnerable. In these scenes, Weigert and Barricelli create an alchemy of aching

sadness.

Jim Tyrone also happens to own the hardscrabble farm where Josie lives with her rascal of a father (played with an ornery warmth by Raye Birk). His cantankerous ways have driven away his sons, and alienated a rich neighbor. David Arrow plays the snooty neighbor a bit too obviously, and there is an artificial petulance to Andy Butterfield's brief appearance as the last of Josie's brothers to fly the coop.

But this *Moon* belongs to Weigert and Barricelli, who may not look much like the characters they are playing, but who excel at inhabiting them. ▼

A Moon for the Misbegotten will run at the Geary Theater through May 29. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.

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What's up, doc?

Three choices from 2005 SF DocFest

by David Lamble

The 5th San Francisco Documentary Film Festival is an orgy of nonfiction treats, from May 12 to May 22, playing at both the Roxie Cinema and The Women's Building. We picked three out of 21 programs to highlight. Complete list at www.sfndie.com.

"The only thing to do in Lubbock is to have sex."

In the opening scene of **The Education of Shelby Knox**, a teenage girl is standing with her friends in the parking lot of a Lubbock shopping mall. The girls are chatting, the boys are not frisky, jumping around as if they would like to be rubbing up against someone. One boy playfully moons the camera.

When Shelby Knox was 15, she stood in the sanctuary of her church and pledged to her parents that the first time she had sex it would be with the man to whom she was married. This film will take you inside the year that changed Shelby's life. You'll watch Shelby lying on her waterbed as her conservative parents console her about the latest setback in her one-girl campaign to bring sex education to Lubbock; you'll see Shelby cry when she loses the election of mayor of the Lubbock Youth Commission to one Corey Nichols, a smooth-talking young Republican with a Dairy Queen-style folksiness, who digs black suits and capitulation-style compromises of the sort favored by George W. Bush, who grew up a young Republican only 111 miles down the road. By film's end, Shelby will have declared herself a liberal Christian (in Lubbock, akin to labeling yourself a lunatic) and a future Democratic presidential candidate. She also declares that her best friends are the somewhat beleaguered members of Lubbock's Gay/Straight Alliance.

Filmmakers Rose Rosenblatt and Marion Lipschutz allow us to feel that we might live in Lubbock—that we might, as Shelby does, deal with the charismatic pastor of the Church on the Rock, Ed Ainsworth, and his "sexual purity" lectures. Shelby and Ainsworth will duke it out over his conviction that "Christianity is the most intolerant religion in the world." In perhaps the most chilling moment of the film, Ainsworth tells Shelby, "When I hear you speak, I hear tolerance." And he doesn't mean that as a compliment.

For a while, Shelby believes that the youth commission can be a vehicle for change—a wiseacre kid with a sly grin seems like a



Shelby Knox with her parents, Danny and Paula Knox, in Lubbock, Texas.

kindred spirit. But as the film, with its in-your-face camerawork and confessional tone, winds down, Shelby meets the "Ayatollah" of Lubbock, the local head of the Family Values Coalition, who asserts that the elected officials are his hand-picked puppets, and that sex education is DOA.

Shelby learns she has a choice between two elite groups: the youth commission members, striving to get a leg up into adult politics; or the gay/straight alliance members, with their bandannas, earrings and Matthew Shepard posters, who are trying to survive with dignity until they, like Shelby, get out of Lubbock. (*Women's Bldg.*, 5/13, 15)

Ghetto Fabulous Oakland director Brian Lilla's camera is sitting in the front seat as Dave backs his mint-condition white-and-red Ford Falcon out of his driveway. Dave's fabulous restoration job on wheels is the only thing "white" in this movie. As Dave puts it, "East Oakland, that's where the ghetto is. We take old cars and make them like new cars. We can't afford new cars!"

Guys like Dave and Ant, Poppa and Wheezy, explain how the Falcon, made to be a family buggy, took on ghetto-icon status about 25 years ago. These men, who put all their free time and cash into retrofitting their 1968-70 era Falcons at home, are in some ways like the Cuban mechanics who keep 150,000 American jalopies in mint condition, as seen in the documentary *Yank Tanks*.

For the men of East Oakland,

these cars become a statement of fashion, pride and a kind of remembrance to friends slain in the drug wars. We see local artists making RIP T-shirts, each with the name of a dead brother. The talk is so real that your ears may have to speed up. On first listen, I thought a young man confiding how he made money to satisfy his car fix was talking about selling marijuana to "dykes." Then I realized he actually meant he was playing "dice." An awesome look at a world only a BART and bus-ride away. (*Women's Bldg.*, 5/15)



Stephen Tobolowsky in action.

Stephen Tobolowsky's Birthday Party Remember the pesky insurance salesman who dogs Bill Murray throughout *Groundhog Day*? But "Ned, Ned Ryerson" is only the tip of the iceberg of Stephen Tobolowsky's more than 85 movie characters. Filmmaker Robert Brinkmann explains he's trying to capture a great storyteller in action.

Tobolowsky is seen cooking sausages in a beer-basting sauce as he recalls the time his host put LSD in the coffee, and he spent the night wrapped around the toilet with the lights out; the time he was paid to be attacked by vegetarian piranhas in a Mel Gibson movie; and when he was held at gunpoint in a Dallas Piggly Wiggly, and his only way out was to spew lines for talking to lunatics cribbed from a TV doctor show. Tobolowsky is a prime example of why the stars aren't the coolest guys on screen. (*Women's Bldg.*, 5/14, 15) ▼



Poppa poses with his mint-condition Ford Falcon in *Ghetto Fabulous*.



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Bad boy makes good

George Antheil out on compact disc

by Stephanie von Buchau

George Antheil: The Complete Works for String Quartet - Del Sol String Quartet (Other Minds Records)

I've long enjoyed the music of George Antheil, the self-proclaimed "bad boy of American music," but it never hurts to look things up. So, checking out the New Jersey-born composer in the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, I was not surprised to find that co-author of the bio was Charles Amirkhanyan, who not only directs Other Minds, a local contemporary music organization, but also produced this entertaining disc.

In case Antheil (pronounced "Ann-tile") has slipped under your radar, he was a smart, handsome fella born in 1900 who played the piano — Aaron Copland, his compatriot in French music circles, thought Antheil had the best piano technique he'd ever encountered — and studied composition from age 16, eventually winding up in New York as a pupil of Ernest Bloch. He was essential-

ly "undertaught," however, and many superficial criticisms of his music dwell on insufficiencies of compositional technique.

Though Stravinsky was his model, particularly for the "primitive" aspects of the Russian composer's style, there is nothing either naive or primitive about Antheil's music, labels usually applied by those who know only his most notorious piece, the massive percussion ensemble *Ballet mécanique*, premiered in Paris in 1925. A more accurate characterization might be that he was a weathervane. Hugely ambitious, he changed his colors to suit the prevailing winds, yet he was almost always ahead of the storm. He was also something of a visionary egotist, with delightful quotes such as, "My ear is only a photographic apparatus of the times."

Antheil composed six symphonies, a half-dozen ballets (including works for Martha Graham and Balanchine), six operas, film scores (including *The Pride and the Passion*), vocal, piano and chamber works, of which this disc includes the complete music for string quartet. That is, the avail-

able music. Many in a list of Antheil scores are followed with the sad notation "lost." When things didn't go right, he tended to destroy work. His literal First String Quartet (*Ungariana*) disappeared in this manner when it proved a huge failure at a 1924 Paris concert.

Yet common sense tells us that the 1925 Quartet no. 1 for Strings (a single movement of 15 minutes duration) must have some connection to the destroyed work.

Best not to think about that, because if *Ungariana* was anything like Antheil's 1922 *Lithuanian Night* (the first string-quartet item on this disc), we may have lost something really valuable. The two short movements of *Lithuanian Night* are sensational, sort of a cross between what you might hear in the salon of an ocean liner, and the vivacious, rhythmic dance style that is Antheil's own.

Antheil went to Europe in 1922, where he immediately became part of the smart literary set



in Paris. Joyce, Pound, Yeats, Satie, Picasso were all friends. Oddly enough, Antheil is one of the few American musicians of that period who did not study with Nadia Boulanger, teacher of Copland, Piston, Diamond, Harris, Carter and Virgil Thomson. He produced plenty of music and was much discussed, but critics never really got him. The Second String Quartet (1927), dedicated to Sylvia Beach, is much less advanced than the First. It was written partially to appease Antheil's longtime patroness, a starchy Philadelphia matron named Mary Louise Bok, to whom he dedicated the charming, tuneful *Six Little Pieces for String Quartet* (1931; this is the world premiere recording).

It's awfully easy to denigrate these works and the following String Quartet no. 3 (1948) for their easy, tuneful quality, but that

is such an unfair, academic way to judge music. I prefer the Third Quartet myself, for the use of catchy, singable tunes that are transformed into gold by Antheil's musical virtues, terrific motor rhythms and interesting harmonic twists of the melodies. Of course, it is sad that this bright, adventurous composer (he died at 59) just seemed to miss the Zeitgeist. When he was avant-garde, the establishment was conservative. By the time he reached his late romantic phase, music was steering itself into the port of incomprehensible modernism and took over a quarter-century to escape. The Third Quartet was not heard live until 1987.

Now we have it and other related pieces by this unfairly neglected composer on a single disc, fabulously played by the local Del Sol String Quartet, which has the perfect tone for Antheil — mellow but not sentimental — and the virtuosity to dash through his prestos, toccatas and allegros with breathtaking élan. ▼

Mad Max

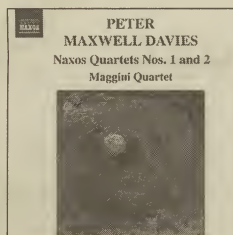
Sir Peter Maxwell Davies is a master

by Tim Pfaff

Peter Maxwell Davies, long one of England's most distinguished composers and the white-hair among the country's openly gay ones (now, Sir Peter and the Master of the Queen's Music), is being feted in Jolly Ol' with a series of 70th-birthday concerts and related pomp. How this shy recluse is handling all the attention — much of it negative; he's been an indisputably great composer for so long that all kinds of people, his colleagues mostly, have had to try to retire him with specious judgments suggesting that he's no longer in the groove (or his right mind) — one can only guess.

What isn't disputable is the flood of major music that keeps pouring out of him. Sure, he's no longer the daring composer famous for such theatrical classics as *Eight Songs for a Mad King*. Now he's the still-daring composer of a recent spate of concertos, and currently, through a commission from the enterprising bargain-CD company Naxos (that he himself initiated), of a set of no less than 10 string quartets, a healthy output for an average composer's lifetime, but a late-life feat for the ever-industrious Max. His Sixth Naxos Quartet was recently performed in London by the set's designated performing ensemble, the Maggini Quartet: violinists Laurence Jackson and David Angel, violist Martin Outram, and cellist Michal Kaznowski. The two CDs released to date feature the First through Fourth Quartets, and a performing ensemble pushed to its very considerable limits.

If the quartets did nothing more than show that the form (now associated almost exclusively with music written for Kronos or the Arditti) remains vital in its more traditional forms, they would constitute a significant achievement. That they bother to



be adventurous, austere, beautiful, troubled, troubling, and consistently, unapologetically moving should send Max's detractors back to their holes — and people who care about chamber music rushing out to hear them. If, as a group, there's one thing they don't sound, it's hasty. Each is highly distinct, yet all are intricately constructed along the principles that have guided Davies' music for decades: numerology, astrology; plainchant, medieval polyphony and other facets of early music; ideas prodigiously plucked from the works of other composers (but almost fastidiously acknowledged, lest concerned listeners hear the connections); and all manner of other theory from the dizzying range of disciplines in which the composer is widely read. Don't read Max's own notes before you listen to these discs; they'll scare you off.

Grand design

Even with only the four now on disc, it's also obvious that Max has a grand design for the set, each of its component quartets playing a role. So, if there's initially a sense of some throat-clearing in the First, it's not entirely inappropriate, given all of what is to come. But the strings-in-the-stratosphere, musical hanging-garden effect with which he brings the work to a close is both the ideal ending for this increasingly involving piece and the springboard for much of what is to come.

The Second, which makes

more use of the atmospheric, weathery effects associated with his home in the isolated Orkney Islands, feels less severe if no less rigorous. While there's nothing "generic modern string quartet" about it, it has the whiff of Bartók, probably because it uses material from Scottish dances in much the same way Max's Hungarian counterpart used Eastern European folk material. Its long first movement feels colossal in the good sense, so rich in material that it spills over into the rest of the work.

Max explains that his elaborate plan for the Third Quartet, composed in March and April 2003, was changed by the onset of the Iraq War. Always a deeply political artist, his alarm at the world going to this particular war suffuses the entire work, from its eerie, out-of-step opening March through its almost sickeningly queasy third movement, Four Inventions and a Hymn. It ends on a Fugue of the starkest character.

It's not overt, take-to-the-streets political music in the manner of, say, Frederic Rzewski's; what keeps it from being the people's music is that it takes people with the skills of the Maggini to sound it out — and sometimes they exhibit fatigue over it all.

The Fourth Quartet, a 25-minute, single-movement work called *Children's Games*, was deliberately intended to offset the alarms of the Third. Yet, for inspiration, Davies turned to Breughel's painting of children playing, and the results are, consequently, less than frivolous. The somber music is, however, some of the most beautiful among these quartets. Specific games are depicted, Max maintains, but they're played by the children of a Brave (or Teeth-Gritting) New World.

These new quartets sound both large-scale yet fiercely concentrated. They augur to remain high on the list of works the composer will be remembered for. ▼

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Mommie Dearest

Jane Fonda is a 'Monster-In-Law'

by Robert Julian

She's ba-a-ck! Hanoi Hannah/Barbarella/Brie Daniels — two-time Oscar winner Jane Fonda returns to the screen after a 15-year absence as the mother-in-law from hell. The good news is that Fonda delivers a rip-roaring, scenery-chewing performance that establishes she can still act the pants off any woman in Hollywood. Fonda's turn as Viola may be the best comeback since Gloria Swanson inhabited Norma Desmond. And although Viola was written as the second lead in Anya Kochoff's wonderfully funny screenplay, there is only one star in *Monster-In-Law*, and that is Jane Fonda.

Top billing goes to Jennifer Lopez, who plays Charlie, a part-time waitress, dog-walker and office temp. In short, Lopez is supposed to be the dewy-eyed ingénue. This ridiculous conceit is about as believable as Charlie's romantic Venice Beach apartment, her \$500 haircut, and her flawless makeup and wardrobe. No woman who has witnessed a shoot-out with Puff Daddy and who is reportedly more difficult than Martha Stewart will ever be believable as an ingénue. Yet this casting gaffe actually serves the comedy of *Monster-In-Law* perfectly. Lopez delivers an intelligent performance. And her gimlet-eyed demeanor makes Viola's evil-doing more palatable than it would otherwise have been if director Robert Luketic had hired a "nicer" actress to portray Charlie.



Jane Fonda as Viola may be the best cinematic comeback since Gloria Swanson inhabited Norma Desmond.

A chance encounter on the

beach brings Charlie together with her future husband, the handsome Dr. Kevin Fields (Michael Vartan), who is Viola's son. Their romance progresses simultaneously with the demise of Viola's successful career. After a lifetime as a Barbara Walters-type

television journalist, Viola is fired and replaced by a younger woman. Viola's on-camera mental breakdown, while interviewing a Britney Spears lookalike, is a comic gem. With Viola locked up in the loony bin, Charlie and Kevin fall in love. Just after Viola's release, Kevin proposes to Charlie in front of his mother. It is the first time the women have met, and Charlie, of course, accepts. Viola is not amused.

Viola's smart-mouthed personal assistant Ruby (Wanda Sykes) tries to keep her employer in check — and away from the booze. But Ruby knows she is no match for Viola. Sykes adds a wonderfully sanguine touch to the proceedings, providing the sarcastic commentary once delivered on film by actresses like Thelma Ritter and Eve Arden. She pulls it all

next page ►

Sykes alive!

Wanda Sykes on Wanda Sykes

by Robert Julian

Wanda Sykes is short, cute, and at the age of 41, at the top of her game. Sykes' trademark deadpan humor sparks her supporting role in *Monster-In-Law*, a part destined to push her star higher in the Hollywood firmament. Sharing a sofa with her at San Francisco's Hotel Vitale, I let Wanda do it.

Robert Julian: I have this theory that when you were growing up in Portsmouth, Virginia, you were the good girl who got good grades and did what her parents told her. Am I close?

Wanda Sykes: I was a good girl. I got good grades, and I did what my parents told me. But I had a mouth on me, and it got me in trouble. I wasn't disruptive or disobedient, I just said things that were inappropriate for a child. Or I would say things that embarrassed my parents.

I fell in love with you on *The Chris Rock Show*, right after George Bush stole the first election.

The Map.

The Map! You dissected the Bush victory complete with a map of America and a pointer. Girl, that was the funniest thing I've ever seen. I howled with laughter. Did you write that?

I wrote that with two other writers the night before we filmed it.

Did it make a difference in your career, or was it just something you tossed off?



Sykes as Viola's smart-mouthed personal assistant Ruby in *Monster-In-Law*

The Chris Rock Show made a difference in my career, but the map piece went all around town.

You have great chemistry with Larry David on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Are you returning to the show?

We just shot another episode for the new season. And, of course, I'm yelling at Larry again. It's so much fun. The beauty of it is when I get there I have no idea what we're doing or what the episode is about. They just call and say, "Do you want to do an episode on such-and-such date?" Then I just show up.

In 2003, you co-hosted the Emmys. Bill Cosby was in the audience and taking himself very se-

riously. You went down the aisle with the microphone and started talking to him, and it was pretty clear he thought you were about as funny as a quadruple by-pass. How did that feel?

I don't know if it was the day, or if God plugged my ears up, but I didn't even absorb it. Cosby was sitting behind Larry David, and I couldn't just walk by him without acknowledging him. I said something about making material up, and he said something about English, and I went on to Larry and didn't even think about it. Then the next day, the segment appeared on *The View*, and people were talking. I didn't even realize what had happened.

next page ►

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Girl Play

◀ Arts cover

ments, in a cozy bed-and-breakfast cottage complete with all the accouterments of G-spot bliss, except for an empty liquor cabinet.

But even the cameo appearance of Dom DeLuise as the director, who's worlds beyond camp, can't spoil our pleasure. Greenspan and Harmon's screen chemistry testifies to the miracle of their actual coupling a decade ago, on stage. The women are compatible to a degree that would be extremely annoying if they didn't constantly remind us: They don't know why a woman who can't stand to be alone doesn't infuriate a woman who thought she would only be happy when by herself.

Girl Play speaks eloquently about why many of us will not be

cut out for same-sex marriage. There are couples whose collection of vacation photos vastly outnumber their collection of orgasms, to say nothing of mutual interests. Robin's once-ideal marriage collapses in a blizzard of Post-It notes, while Lacie suddenly fails in the act of making out, when a little voice tells her it's over.

Robin and Lacie are two babes who favor letting their hair down, leaving their bras in the bureau dresser, and actually talking about the things that need to be talked about. A nice touch has a Jewish daughter's coming out to a culinary-challenged mother at an all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet — complete with the irony of two women gorging on shellfish before facing the future, and the sublime pleasure of learning why gay still beats lesbian when you wish to soften the blow.

Director Lee Friedlander deftly opens the film up, shooting on an aesthetically appealing mix of film and high-definition video, with a



Mink Stole reacts to news that her daughter Robin Greenspan is a lesbian.

folk-rock music score that provides a trace of that '70s, retro-wistful nostalgia that the piece cries out for. It's discreetly staged in the bed department.

On the heels of Jenni Olson's splendid *The Joy of Life*, *Girl Play* augurs for a bright new season of big-screen lesbian films. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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The L Word

◀ Arts cover

by a San Jose fan after a round of fierce bidding. The stripping continued as women bid for the white button-down shirt from Shane's Season 1 wardrobe, off Chaiken's back. It went for \$2,200.

The high-rollers didn't stop there. When a walk-on part was offered for bid, Karen Opp of San Francisco made a side bid of \$15,000 to allow Del Martin and

Phyllis Lyon an opportunity to have a walk-on part in the third season of *The L Word*. For that she got a huge three-way hug from Chaiken, Shahi, and Holloman, in front of a stunned and cheering crowd. Lyon excitedly responded to this generous offer with, "Wonderful! What the hell!" When Opp had a moment between congratulations and hugs to comment on her bid, she declared, "I'm blessed, and it's something good I can do for the organization. I don't want to be in front of the camera, but

this kind of publicity is something [Lyon Martin] couldn't afford to buy."

Leslie Ewing of Lyon Martin estimated that the auction alone contributed over \$48,000 to this provider of primary health care for lesbians, bisexual, and transgender women who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford medical care.

Following the auction was a screening of a special director's cut of *The L Word* DVD, then dancing and mingling for the ladies until late. ▼

Monster-In-Law

◀ previous page

off with great aplomb. Ruby follows Viola around from one disaster to the next, as Viola tries to sabotage her son's marriage to a woman who does not meet her standards. But before Viola throws in the towel, Charlie turns the tables on her and proves she can give as good as she gets.

Robert Luketic (*Legally Blonde*) directs with great skill. He not only extracts solid performances from all the cast, he keeps the pace moving. There is never a dull moment in *Monster-In-Law*. Homosexuals — read: gay men — get the unfortunately familiar Hollywood treatment. They are

relegated to supporting comic characters like Charlie's Venice Beach neighbor, or a waiter who is hired to pose as a physician by Viola. Their treatment is not terribly insulting, but it is stereotypical.

Monster-In-Law has all the glossy surfaces viewers come to expect from a mainstream Hollywood motion picture. It is certainly pretty to look at; no one will fail to notice just how much money is up there on the screen. More verisimilitude in casting and costuming this affair might have made for a film that worked on more levels, but as it stands, *Monster-In-Law* is a great ride atop the frothy wave of Hollywood make-believe. Few viewers will leave the theater disappointed. ▼

Wanda Sykes

◀ previous page

I was hoping you would pick up on Cosby's attitude and go for it.

If I had heard it, I would have. And it would have been ugly. I would have ripped into him. It's a good thing I didn't. It would have backfired in an unpleasant way. I wish it hadn't happened, but I'm glad it played out the way it did with people saying, "Oh, he picked on her."

Wanda Does It — is it dead?

It is. Wanda did it. But I'm a stand-up comic. That's my first love and what's gotten me everything else. I won't give it up. If I go a long time and I haven't done stand-up, I feel like I'm out of the loop, like I'm not funny.

The last time I saw you at The Punchline, you were riffing on Hollywood waiting you to play maids. Are they still asking?

There will always be a maid part.

I love *Monster-In-Law*, but there are two gay men in this movie. One is a waiter, and the other is a best friend who puts on Jane Fonda's hats and jewelry. Is this like black women always getting cast as the maid?

I guess it depends on how you feel about it. If you look at it and see the stereotype, if it bothers you, then yeah, I can go with how each person feels about it. With me, I always see black men in drag and black women presented as street-smart. We're never the book-smart woman, the librarian. We're streetwise.

I didn't find the gay characters insulting, but the range they're given seems limiting.

Personally, when I watch a movie, I love having the gay friend there or the waiter. At least they exist. ▼

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The tragedy of homophobia

Groundbreaking 'The Children's Hour' out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Lillian Hellman (1905-84) was the model for Nora Charles in her longtime lover Dashiell Hammett's novel *The Thin Man*. She was also a playwright who stunned Broadway audiences with her first drama, *The Children's Hour* ('34), about the impact false accusations of lesbianism have on two teachers at a girls school. It ran for 699 performances. Subsequently, Hellman became independent Hollywood producer Samuel Goldwyn's resident screenwriter. She adapted her play for the movies, changing the lesbianism to heterosexual adultery, and Goldwyn filmed it as *These Three* ('36), directed by William Wyler, starring Miriam Hopkins, Merle Oberon, and Joel McCrea. (When the notoriously ignorant Goldwyn learned the play was about lesbians, he reportedly replied, "Never mind, we'll make them Americans.") In '61, Wyler directed a remake, restoring the original plot. It's now available in DVD.

Karen Wright (Audrey Hepburn) and Martha Dobie (Shirley MacLaine) have been friends since college, and their private girls school is just beginning to make a profit. Karen is engaged to Joe (James Garner), a doctor, and he's eager to wed. When Karen tells Martha that they will soon marry, she gets angry, fearing for the fu-

ture of their school. But Martha apologizes for being so "selfish," and asks Karen to forgive her. "I already have," says Karen, kissing her on the cheek. That kiss is observed by Mary Tilford (Karen Balkin), a nasty, dishonest pupil.

Martha's Aunt Lily Morter (Miriam Hopkins, from the original film) assists with teaching, but is vain, self-centered, and lazy, forever talking about her theatrical experiences. When she and Martha quarrel, Lily blames her niece's angry mood on Joe's presence, nattering about how she never had any boyfriends and was always possessive about her girlfriends. She calls Martha's behavior "unnatural." Their angry discussion is overheard by a few pupils, including Rosalie (Veronica Cartwright), who repeats it to Mary. When Lily announces she's returning to the boards, Martha gladly gives her a check to cover her initial expenses.

Meanwhile, Karen catches Mary in a lie and grounds her. Mary blackmails Rosalie into giving her cabfare home to her grandmother. Mary's grandmother, Amelia Tilford (Fay Bainter), is angry because she has left school without permission. She refuses to believe Mary is being picked on by her teachers. Desperate, the girl whispers to her about what she claims she saw, and relates Mrs. Morter's remark about Martha's "unnatural" behavior. A shocked Mrs. Tilford informs the parents



and guardians of the other girls, who order their charges home immediately.

One father finally tells Karen why he's removing his daughter from school. She, Martha, and Joe confront Mrs. Tilford, denying the charge that the women have been lovers. Mrs. Tilford holds her ground. Martha threatens a libel suit. Joe insists that Mary repeat her story. She does and gets Rosalie — who had taken jewelry from another girl and fears Mary will tell on her — to concur. Even when Martha proves Mary's story is inconsistent, Rosalie backs her.

Bleak house

Karen and Martha become isolated, objects of curiosity. They lose the slander suit, and their future looks bleak. Martha is now

happy Karen and Joe will wed. Joe quits the local hospital and wants them to move elsewhere, but Karen feels there is no use running away. They are notorious now. Unexpectedly, Aunt Lily returns, broke. She had never responded to subpoenas to testify, which is why the suit failed. The judge ruled the women had "sinful sexual knowledge of each other," based on Lily's comment. Martha orders Lily to leave. Meanwhile, Karen, paranoid about what Joe really thinks, ends their engagement against his will.

Martha confesses to Karen that she has been in love with her without knowing it, until confronted by the accusation. It makes no difference to Karen. Martha blames herself for all their problems and says, "I feel so damn sick and dirty."

When Rosalie's mother discovers the missing jewelry, the girl admits Mary blackmailed her into lying. She takes Rosalie to Mrs. Tilford. Mary's lie is exposed. Horrified, desperate to make amends, Mrs. Tilford apologizes to Karen. She has informed the trial judge, who will reverse his ruling. The women will get the money they had sued for and "anything else you would be good enough to accept. Please, help me," she pleads, devastated that her actions have ruined three lives. Karen refuses the money and asks her to leave. She knows the damage is irreversible, but is unaware of the tragedy to come.

Balkin, in her first (and possibly only) film, is spectacular: a dreadful, mean child. Hopkins is splendid as the ghostly Aunt Lily: selfish, intuitive, cruel. Garner is sympathetic and resolute, effectively projecting outrage at an injustice. Bainter is amazing, conveying tremendous strength and integrity, yet reflecting the ignorant prejudices of the era. It's a towering, Academy Award-nominated performance. MacLaine is deeply touching, heartbreaking when confronting her own nature. Hepburn brings her innate courage, dignity, and kindness to Karen. It's one of her most underrated and moving performances. Her final scene brilliantly shows well-bred disdain for those who harmed her.

The Children's Hour was a landmark in its sympathetic depiction of a lesbian. Yet no one challenges Martha's self-hatred except, implicitly, Karen. The lying Mary and irresponsible Lily are the villains. Mrs. Tilford is appalled because the accusations of lesbianism aren't true, not by her homophobia. Had Karen and Martha been lovers, no one would have regretted destroying their careers. It's a sign of progress that many today would identify homophobia as the true villain, although it's doubtful Hellman herself understood that. Sadly, in many parts of America, Hellman's original concept remains painfully true. ▼

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OUT&ABOUT



Glen Meadmore plays at Catalyst Cocktails along with local faves Larry, Hall, and Jack. See Tuesday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

A bit o' history

If you haven't yet made it down to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society, be a sport and get down there while Jim Provenzano's "Sporting Life" exhibition is still up. You'll have an extra reason to head to the museum's downtown space (near SFMOMA and YBCA, at 657 Mission St., 3rd Floor) on Thursday, May 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m., when the GLBT Historical Society and Harrington Park Press present a reception and presentation with contributors to **Gay Bathhouses and Public Health Policy**. The book, edited by William J. Woods and Diane Binson, explores issues related to civil liberties, public sex, and HIV prevention policies. Both editors will take part in the event. They are assistant adjunct professors in the Dept. of Medicine at UCSF; Woods has published articles related to HIV prevention in bathhouses and sex clubs; Binson's research centers on HIV risk and sexual behavior among gay men.

That same night you're invited to take guided tours of the GLBT Historical Society archives (the last time they offered this tour, it had to be canceled on short notice, to the disappointment of those who showed up). Visitors are promised glimpses of rare artifacts saved from a San Francisco bathhouse, as well as posters and documentation from Bay Area gay sex clubs.

But back to Jim Provenzano's heartfelt, herculean effort in the Main Gallery: "Sporting Life." Recently I got to hang out with Jim and take a little tour of the exhibit, which is marvelous with all sorts of momentos of athletes you may or may not know from all of the events that have taken place over the years, but even if you weren't here or don't recall the moments — or like me pay almost no attention to sports, gay or otherwise — the exhibit succeeds in sparking the events to life. If you think of each object as invested with the energy of its possessor, loaded with that person's chi, her essence, and you fill a room brim-full with such objects, neatly organized but exploding with color and meaning, you get a powerful chi ball in the center of the room. This is invisible, but if you stand in it for a while, you'll get a rush of energy from the past, your mind and tissues channeling all those queer sports events. It's thrilling! Honestly, standing in the midst of Jim's painstakingly gathered collection, a work of sweat, blood and tears, you will understand that gay culture is more than bars, bathhouses, discotheques, hair salons, and designer boutiques. We are proud competitors in the arena of life, and we play fair and square, with an extra flair for fashion. ▼

Sporting Life: LGBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today, is on view at the GLBT Historical Society at 657 Mission St. #300. Exhibit open Tue.- Sat., 1-5pm. \$4 adults; \$2 student & low income. Call 415-777-5455.

Fri 13

Berkeley Opera — Verdi's Macbeth @ Julia Morgan Theatre

Berkeley Opera's 26th season continues with *Macbeth*, the first of Verdi's operas based on Shakespeare. Berkeley Opera Artistic Director Jonathan Khuner conducts; projected visual images by Ariel and Jeremy Knight. Featuring the UC Alumni Chorus. Sung in Italian with English subtitles. Featured singers are SF Opera Adler Fellow Ricardo Herrera as Macbeth and Paula Goodman Wilder as Lady Macbeth. \$40 gen'l; \$35 seniors; \$15 youth/disabled. Fri. May 13 at 8pm & Sun. May 15 at 2pm. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 925-798-1300. Info: 510-841-1903; www.berkeleyopera.org

Cutting Ball Theater's Macbeth @ EXIT Theater

Opening night: The Cutting Ball Theater presents a six-actor, experimental re-imagining of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Cutting Ball Artistic Director Rob Melrose "offers a relentless, muscular adaptation, where we find ourselves in a hall of mirrors in a *Macbeth* that lives in dreams, nightmares and a surreal twentieth century landscape." \$20 student/senior. \$25 adults. Pay-what-you-can previews May 6 & 7. Opens Fri. May 13. Runs Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru June 11. EXIT Theater, 277 Taylor (btwn Eddy/Ellis).

DickFace @ Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts AIRspace (Artist in Residence) program presents DickFace, a raucous new one-man performance by award winning performer/playwright Michael Phillips. The show tells the playwright's own hilarious coming-of-age as a gay teenager living in a small California town, alongside the journey to find and evoke the spirit of the first gay performer to ever come out onstage. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLFO). Two shows only: Fri. May 13 & Sat., May 14, at 8pm. JSC, 1519 Mission St. Info: www.jonsimsctr.org

In The Groove @ Magnet

Artists Reception: Magnet and Continuum host a reception 8-10pm for *In The Groove*, the art show at Magnet throughout May, featuring prints made by members of Continuum's art program. The mission of Continuum is "to empower and dignify the lives of under-served people with HIV/AIDS by providing innovative health and human services that prevent institutionalization, minimize harm, establish relationships and facilitate community." Proceeds from sales throughout the month will directly benefit the artists, with additional pieces on display and for sale at the reception. Free. Fri., May 13, 8-10pm. Magnet, 4122 - 18th St.

Meliza Bañales/Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café

Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Ench, featuring Meliza Bañales. Queer Open Mic happens on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of every month at the Three Dollar Bill Café on the first floor of the SF LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market @ Octavia. sign up 7:30, show @ 8pm.

Martin Brant @ A Different Light Bookstore

Martin Brant reads from his new novel, *A Song in the Park*: "Their paths crossed on the River Road, where the mountains meet the sky, and a friendship was born." Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

Shadowplay @ The Stud

Shadowplay, the omnisexual indie, new wave, electro, and discopunk club, celebrates the circle of life, with a birthday party on Friday, May 13 for the fabulous Jimmy Loveless, as well as a wake marking the 25th anniversary of the suicide of Joy Division frontman Ian Curtis. Guest DJ Tao (Scar Tissue), from Seattle, joins DJ Donimo. Go go dancers Johnny Sexbang and Cayanna. \$3 suicide punch all night. 9pm-3am. Free entrance with a pic of a dead rock star for the shrine; otherwise \$5 after 10pm. At the Stud, 399 9th St. at Harrison St. Info: shadowplaysf.com

Sat 14

Artwear: Fashion & Anti-fashion @ Legion of Honor

Catch the retrospective look at wearable art in *Artwear: Fashion and Anti-fashion*, featuring some 120 objects charting the genre's development, from embroidered and crocheted hippie style to grand, one-of-a-kind woven, knitted and dyed garments, to fashion-oriented works of the 1990s. Curat-

ed by Melissa Leventon. Wearable art's relationship to the popular use of unwearable garments as artistic metaphor will also be explored. \$2 surcharge for exhibit; \$10 museum entry (\$8 senior; \$5 youth). Free admission every Tuesday (surcharge still in effect). 9:30am-5pm. Lincoln Park. Info: 415-750-3614; www.legionofhonor.org

Veronica Klaus

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge

Just in time for summer, Veronica Klaus hosts "Something Cool!", offering great live jazz, blues and cabaret every Saturday night with her trio featuring Tammy L. Hall and special guests. Klaus's hot new album *Veronica Klaus Live at the Lodge* is hot of the press and a pure delight. Delicious late night food served until 1:30am on Friday and Saturdays. Ongoing Saturdays. \$8 cover. 10:30pm showtime. Michael's Octavia Lounge, 1772 Market St. @ Octavia Blvd. Reservations: 415-863-3690 & (415) 863-3516; OctaviaLounge.com

Spencer Day Band

@ Bruno's

"Bruno's is a classy and intimate space to hear Spencer playing with a full band including the smoking 'Shotgun Wedding' horn players along with special surprise guests... Bruno's also serves excellent food." (www.spencerday.com). Special Saturday show on May 14 at 10pm. \$15 cover. 2389 Mission St. Spencer also plays 9pm on Wed., May 18. Info: 415-648-7701; www.brunoslive.com

Reclaiming Your Life

@ Magnet

Rik Isensee, LCSW, will be speaking about approaches to recovery from his book, *Reclaiming Your Life, The Gay Man's Guide to Recovery from Abuse, Addictions, and Self-Defeating Behavior*. Part I looks at how growing up gay in a homophobic culture is similar in many ways to growing up in a dysfunctional family. Part II shows how gay men can recover from early abuse, internalized homophobia, and self-defeating behavior. Free. Sat., May 14, 7-8:30pm. Magnet, 4122 - 18th St. Info: www.rikisensee.com; www.magnetsf.org

Dykes on Bikes —

The Movie @ Eagle Tavern

The San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent (www.sfwmc.org) presents *Dykes on Bikes — The Movie*, a documentary by Sheila Malone. Experience the roar of thundering pipes! Four hundred women on bikes gather each year to lead the SF Pride Parade! *Dykes on Bikes* features the stories of the women who have organized Dykes on Bikes each year for over 25 years. If you missed it at the SF Film Fest, now's your chance to view the Director's Cut. Free showing. Sat., May 14, 3-6pm Beverage Bust; movie at 4pm & again at 5pm; 50/50 raffle; hot dogs and popcorn. Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison).

Fauxgirls! @ Marlena's

Victoria Secret and Alexandria host Fauxgirls!, offering drag cabaret at its best, featuring the talents of Bliss, Davida, Dafney Deluxe, Nikki Starr, Chanel, Tia Dora and special guest stars. Showtime is always at 10pm. Never a cover at Marlena's. 488 Hayes St. at Octavia. Info: 415-864-6672; www.sfdrag.com



The always alluring Veronica Klaus serves up "Something Cool!" for blues fans at Michael's Octavia Lounge. See Saturday.

Super Sugar @ The Stud

Expect the unexpected at Super Sugar with host Jose "The Prince of Folsom." Resident DJs Ellen Ferrato and Leonard spin their deep house beats with guest DJ Sean Greene (Powerhouse). Rubberman Terry Gauchaut and Rubbermen of SF guest host this dark and twisted Super Sugar. Also in the house will be Photographer Norm in The Photo-Op Spot and Miss Avis reading fortunes. \$9 cover (\$2 off w/this weeks BAR Super Sugar ad). Sat., May 14, 10pm-4am. The Stud, 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: come2sugar@yahoo.com

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's Other Cinema presents "Exploding Cinema," a group show of 5 projected-performance pieces that proffer a plethora of approaches to "Live A/V" — Pat McLaughlin's (*Chroma*) *Depths of Field*; Steve(s) Polta's *Drone Tones*; Dean Santomieri's *Three Views from the Panopticon*; Ken Paul Rosenthal's *Galloping Whore-May*; and Craig Baldwin's *Unified Film* on his Roto-StroboScope. Only six smackers! Doors open 8pm for artists' reception; 8:30pm showtime. 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; www.othercinema.com

Q Ballroom Dance

@ Synergy School

Q Ballroom Dance this Sat., May 14 (Every 2nd Saturday): 7pm Samba; 8pm Cha Cha lessons. No partner or experience needed. (Upcoming lesson schedule: June 11-Salsa/Samba; July 9-Swing/Salsa; Aug. 13-Merengue/Swing; Sept. 10-Tango/Merengue; Oct. 8-Quick Step/Tango; Nov. 12-Waltz/Quick Step; Dec. 10-Fox-trot/Waltz). 9pm to Midnight Dance to Ballroom, Latin, Country, Salsa and Swing! Synergy School, 1387 Valencia St. at 25th. Info: 415-305-8242; www.QueerBallroom.com

SF Hiking Club

@ Montara Mountain

Enjoy the spectacular panoramic view of the entire SF Bay from the summit of Montara Mountain. It's a moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Lavender Seniors

of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, will hold their monthly potluck on Sat., May 14 at 12 noon at San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Volunteers of all ages are needed to be friendly visitors for socially isolated seniors. Rides from BART (call 2 days prior): Peggy Moore at 510-667-9655.

Sun 15

AIDS Candlelight Vigil

@ Castro & Market

The SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil honors those lost to HIV/AIDS and the millions who are living with the disease despite morally bankrupt or otherwise corrupt politicians and governments who have traditionally done too little too late. AIDS activists and supporters will gather 8 p.m. on Sunday May 15th at Castro & Market to honor those who have died and those still living with HIV/AIDS. Confirmed speakers include youth activist Devin Anderson, HIV Stops With Me spokesmodel Alejandro Diesta and Anne-christine d'Adesky, an international AIDS activist fighting to save an estimated 175,000 Rwandan women who were purposely infected with AIDS. Some of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be presenting a ritual of remembrance. Free (donations requested).

'Spunk-O-Rama'**@ The Edge**

"Spunk-O-Rama," a benefit for the 20th Annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil, the world's largest annual grassroots event. Exorcisms & healings; entertainment; frisky &/or scruffy boys. \$7 beer bust includes cruising. Porn-o-copia raffle (\$2/each or ask about in-seam quickies). Sunday, May 15 4-7pm. The Edge, 18th St. & Collingwood.

SF Hiking Club**@ Mt. Diablo's Oyster Point**

Enjoy the views from the wildflower-filled meadows and ridges on the south side of the mountain. It's a moderate 11-mile hike with an 1,800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:30am near the exit of the Dublin BART station. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Peace Walkers**@ Bay2Breakers**

Nudes4Peace gather Sun., May 15 at 8am on the north side of Hayes Street, near Octavia, to watch fast Bay2Breakers runners, then join slow walkers. Bring peace signs, drums, flags, etc. To get there from Civic Center BART/Muni station, walk west on Grove to Octavia, walk south on Octavia to Hayes; look for Mariana's bar as landmark. After the 82B footrace, N4P may demonstrate at Ocean Beach, on federal land. Updates at groups.yahoo.com/group/sfbarea

Mei-Ting Sun**@ Old First Church**

2005 National Chopin Competition winner and Yamaha artist Mei-Ting Sun will perform in a solo recital sponsored by the SF Chopin Council. At only 24 years old, he has already toured Spain, France, Italy, China and Japan and played with symphonies in Canada, Hong Kong and Macau. Currently, Sun is a C.V. Star Doctoral Fellow at The Juilliard School of Music. \$20 general admission; \$15 seniors and students. Sunday, May 15 at 4 p.m. Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. (at Van Ness). Tix/info: Colleen Twardowski at (415) 474-1608.

Mon 16**David Antin @ Booksmith**

Reading & book signing for I never knew what time it was, the new book of talk pieces by internationally known poet, artist, critic and performance artist David Antin. His free-form poems explore the experience of time — how it's felt, remembered and recounted. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. Info: 415-863-8688; www.booksmith.com

Tue 17**Glen Meadmore / Larry, Hall & Jack @ Catalyst Cocktails**

Girrfriendasaurus Presents: Glen Meadmore Solo Acoustic! With opening band: Larry, Hall, and Jack! Meadmore's latest CD is Cowboy Songs For Little Muslers (Perver-tidora Records); 10 hot new tracks, recorded and mixed by Steve Albini. His previous hit CD was Hot Horny & Born Again (Queer Christian Country Punk Rock). Free show! (buy lots of beer and a burger!). Happy hour is 4-7pm (\$3 beers; \$3 well drinks; \$1 off all other drinks). Tue., May 17; opening band starts at 6:30; Glen starts at 7:30pm — one set only. Catalyst Cocktails, 312 Harriet St. (at Bryant). Info: 415-621-1722; www.catalystcocktails.com

Adam and Paul & Halo Effect @ SF Irish Film Fest / Roxie Cinema

The Irish Arts Foundation and the Film Arts Foundation present The Second Annual Film 05, The SF Irish Film Fest, offering two new Irish features: Lenny Abrahamson's acclaimed *Adam and Paul*, starring Mark O'Halloran and Tom Murphy as down and out druggies in Dublin; and Lance Daly's *Halo Effect* in which "Fatso" is the proprietor of what may be the worst eatery in the city, and is struggling to keep a sinking ship afloat. His compulsive gambling is getting the better of him and he has to contend with an endless succession of loan sharks and debt collectors. He employs hopelessly incompetent staff and generally manages to keep the entire community around him ticking over." \$10. Tue.-Thu. May 17-19. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St.

Chi Chi LaRue**@ Trannyshack**

"Addicted to Porn," a Trannyshack special featuring porn goddess Chi Chi LaRue! Heklina's gonna have a lot to pay for in hell because of this one! DJ Derek spins tunes. MISS Chocolate greets you at the door. \$7. 10pm-3am. The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: heklina.com

Joe Babcock @ A Different Light Bookstore

Joe Babcock reads from *The Tragedy of Miss Geneva Flowers*. Sixteen-year-old Erick Taylor dreams of being a star. The problem is that he's unpopular and stuck in Catholic school. He then meets Chloe, a "grandiloquent" drag queen, who gives Erick a glam-rock makeover and leads him into the increasing insanity of Minneapolis's gay nightlife and a world exploding. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.



Ricardo Herrera and Paula Goodman Wilder play the leads in Berkeley Opera's production of Verdi's *Macbeth* at Julia Morgan Theatre. See Friday.

Richard McCann**@ Books Inc., Castro**

Books Inc. welcomes Richard McCann, author of *Mother of Sorrows*. This collection of short stories constructs a series of portraits of an American family living in the post-World War II suburbs of Washington, D.C. Free. Tue., May 17, 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 415-864-6777; www.booksinc.net

Some Angels Wear Black**@ Modern Times Bookstore**

Friends and admirers of Eli Coppel, who died five years ago of muscular dystrophy, leaving behind pages of heartfelt, well-crafted poems, will gather to celebrate her life and read from the new *Manic D Press* collection of her work, *Some Angels Wear Black: Selected Poems*, edited by David West, with an introduction by Michelle Tea. Readers include West, Tea, publisher Jennifer Joseph and many others from readings at the Café Babar, Chameleon, and Paradise Lounge. Free. 7pm. 888 Valencia St. (near 20th). Info: 415-282-9246.

Barebacking Forum**@ Magnet**

"Is All Barebacking Created Equal?" — A Community Forum For HIV+ Gay Men. Join Bob Grant and Jeff McConnell from the Positive Partners Study and Magnet in opening the door for a community forum about barebacking, HIV superinfection, and HIV transmission. What does it mean for you and your health, the guys you're fucking, and our community's health? There is surprising information to hear and talk about so don't miss this! Tue., May 17, 7-9pm. 4122 - 18th St. Info: Kevin Roe at kevin@magnetsf.org or 415-581-1605.

'Proof Positive' Closing**@ SF LGBT Center**

Closing reception: Proof Positive, A Visual Aid group exhibition showcasing new work produced by more than 35 artists with the assistance of Visual Aid's Voucher Program. The artists will be honored at a closing reception for friends and supporters of Visual Aid. A color catalog documenting the show will be distributed at the closing reception. The show features sculpture, paintings, photographs and installations by a host of local artists. Tue., May 17 from 5-7pm in the Gallery of the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 415-777-8242; www.visualaid.org

Wed 18**SF Int'l Arts Fest**

SF International Arts Festival in Association with Dance Mission Theater celebrates San Francisco as City of International Arts & Culture, May 18-June 5 at Venues throughout SF. This week: **Korean Musical Ceremony** with Byung Ki Hwang, Aeju Lee, Hi Kyung Kim, Tandy Beal, Elliot Anderson and Ensemble Paralell @ Palace of Fine Arts Theater (Wed., May 18 @ 8pm); **Do Theatre** with Shinichi Momo Koga performing *Nonsense* @ Project Artaud Theater (Thu., May 19, 4:30pm); **Fabrik Company** perform *Pandora 88* @ Dance Mission Theater (Thu., May 19, 5:30pm); **The AKHE Group** perform *White Cabin* @ Project Artaud Theater (Thu., May 19, 7pm); dancers **Scott Wells** performs *Duet in Three Parts, Your Move*, and **Stephen Pelton** performs *If Tomorrow Wasn't Such a Long Time* @ Dance Mission Theater (Thu., May 19, 8pm); **Motion Lab** with **Stephanie Maher** performs *free the birds* and other dances @ ODC Theater (Thu., May 19, 8pm); **The Foundry** with **Kirstie Simson** perform "Capacity" from *Shallowness*, and **Kunst-Stoff** performs *Solo, W* @

Project Artaud Theater (Thu., May 19, 9:30pm). All tix through SFIAT/Verba Buena Center for the Arts Box Office: 415-978-2787; www.YBCA.org. Info: www.SFIntlArtsFest.org

Smack Dab @ Magnet

An open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts, making the Castro safe for performance again. Featured performer for May is Daphne Gottlieb. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy, or miscellany; bring your charm and magic and cheerful can-do attitude, or just come and watch and cheer folks on. This is one of the hottest free tickets in town. All ages and genders will be welcomed and adored. Sign-ups at 7:30. Show 8-10pm. Free! 4122 - 18th St. Info: Kirk Read at kirk@earthlink.net.

Thu 19**A&PI Wellness Center's MIX '05 @ YBCA Forum**

Come to MIX '05, Asian and Pacific Islander's Wellness Center's 8th Annual Community Awards & Silent Auction. The event will honor Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis, Horizons Foundation, Tom Wadell Health Center, Comcast Cable, and CBSS/UPN. Featuring emcees Amy Hill and Alec Mapa, liqueur tastings, gourmet food, and A&PI cultural performances to raise funds for vital, multilingual HIV services to A&PIs living with HIV/AIDS and their families. \$50 adult; \$20 under 21. Thu., May 19, 6:45-10pm. Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: Tommy Huie at 415-292-3400 x343.

Lavender Lunch Bunch, Oakland

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay host "Lavender Lunch Bunch," co-sponsored by the City of Oakland Dept. of Human Services, reaching out to Oakland's LGBT African American, Latino, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Catered lunch from 12:30-2:30pm at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Info/Rides from BART (call 2 days prior): Peggy Moore, 510-667-9655.

Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance**@ Women's Building**

The blistering hot band The Fignments comes from Vermont to join caller Mavis McCaugh for a lively evening of music and dance. Contra is a spirited, friendly folk dance that's easy to learn. No partner, special attire or experience are required. Beginners welcome. \$10 (or pay what you can). 8-10:30pm (doors open 7:45pm). The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (btwn Guerrero/Valencia). Info: www.lcd.org/sf

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Get ready for Chicago

(But don't pack the dope)

By Mister Marcus

It's time once again for the annual pilgrimage to Chicago for the greatest leather contest on earth. Billed primarily as International Mr. Leather, the contest weekend also includes the competition for International Boot Black. From around the world, the leather faithful will converge on the Windy City and dump hundreds of thousands of dollars on hotel bills, booze, meals, shopping and leather. The City of Chicago is forever grateful with the slogan, "Keep Chicago green. Bring money."

Of course, the "circuit dance parties" will generate several thousand more with foppish designer clothing, nauseating cologne and cha-cha frivolities related to this genre. And no one can estimate how much will be expended on drugs. Now there's this: IML, Inc. posted on their web site (www.iml.com) just last week that there would be Zero Tolerance for drugs at IML, Inc.

There will be no mere wrist-slapping here. The Chicago "boys in blue" will be summoned and if you've never been in jail Chicago, be advised that it's almost as bad as being in jail in New Orleans.

Major leather weekends generally provide 12-step meetings for delegates and Chicago is no different. So if you're planning to be a "crystal meth" freak, be prepared to face the consequences of your stupid behavior or just stay away. Despite the efforts of various agencies in most major cities, drug use is rampant and it is the shame of our community that these problems exist. You have been warned!

Of course, there are some out there who are bent out of shape that IML, Inc. is taking this stance. Well, isn't that just too bad? Most attendees are over 21 — that means "adult". Most attendees know better. Many don't care! The slogan, "safe, sane, consensual" doesn't just apply to sexual encounters. If you're an adult, act like one. To get embroiled in the drug scene is juvenile, distasteful (to many) and definitely not in keeping with leather pride. If



IMSL Lori Ellison gets a new "sash" husband on Sunday, May 29 in Chicago when IML 2004 Jason Hendrix "steps aside" for his successor out of some 52 hopefuls.

you're into these drugs, take that Leather Pride pin off.

On a positive note, IML, Inc. has definitely made IML 2005 an experience you will never forget.

For one thing, consider 52 (give or take a couple) men from around the world competing for the coveted title. Consider a new venue, the Navy Pier, one of Chicago's most popular tourist attractions. They've given a positive nod to the bike/social scene by inviting clubs to participate in the "Parade of Colors" at a special

"closing ceremony" following the contest. Last year's contest saw a record crowd of 13,000 leather folks from around the world. That's a whole lot of leather and a whole lot of eye candy!

Alan Tunstall, the winner of the Boot Black title last year, will also step aside for a successor. IMsL Lori Ellison will get a new sash husband, and at around 1900 hours on Sunday, May 29, a new icon will be announced as International Mr. Leather 2005.

Meanwhile around the U.S., Canada and Europe, some 52 nervous men await the "IML experience", one they will never forget.

The preliminary contests to be on the IML 2005 stage have been raging for almost the last 52 weeks. Their time has come. Good luck to all.

The judges are ready to take on the awesome 16-hour task of interviewing the contestants. Billy Lane, the judges' coordinator, has Jason Hendrix, Connie Cox, Race Bannon, Joseph Bean, Christian Henning, Chuck Rodocker, Mike Zuhl, Daniel Dumont and Lynn Bouchard ready for the interviews and other judging segments. Former Int'l Mr. Rubber Tom Kelley and Dennis McMahon are the tally masters.

The mammoth Leather Market will feature vendors of every outfit and accoutrement and/or toy you could ever possibly want. The Hyatt Regency Hotel is geared up for the crowd and American Air Lines is the official airline. For all the information you need in the way of hotel accommodations and the weekend package, surf to www.iml.com. See you in Chicago!

International Leather Sir/boy

The contest circuit doesn't end with IML or IMsL (in July). Already hopefuls for the Interna-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend May 13-15

Mama's Family Reunion up at the Russian River Resort. Rooms, if any left, by calling Madame Leslie at 1-800-41-RESORT. Also the Russian River Leather Sir/boy contest on Sat. night at the Triple R. Send-off party for Jeff Hettinger (IML-bound) at the Rainbow Cattle Co. on Sat. afternoon and "pretty (sloshed) by the pool."

In Hayward, the 2005 Mr. Alameda Co. Bear contest at Club Rumor on Saturday night with an \$8 beer/soda bust, boxer shorts party, auction & raffles and "cele-bear-ty" judges.

Wednesday, May 18

Patrick Califa expounds on Conflict Resolutions in S/M Relationships' is free at the Leathermen's Discussion Group upstairs at 933 Harrison from 1930 to 2130.

Weekend, May 18-20

For leather/bdsm women, it's "Desire" at a private resort where butches and femmes will abound. For more info, click on www.desireleatherwomen.com or email to: information@desireleatherwomen.com.

Saturday, May 21

SF Chapter of Men of Discipline cavort at the Powerhouse tonight with "Uniform Night" around 2100. At the Eagle Tavern, Lea. Daddy Doug presents "A Dog Day Afternoon: from 1500 to 1800 with a \$9 beer/soda bust to benefit PAWS and Rocket Dog Rescue. Adopt a pup or two also!

Wednesday, May 25

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison tonight for the usual fun and games. Strict, really strict dress code. No sneakers. No cologne. No attitude. At the Powerhouse, it's "live" wrestling from 2200 to 2400. Hear those groans! Hear Carlton and Paul wince. See those writhing butts on the mats.

Weekend, May 26-30

27th Annual International Mr. Leather weekend. See above. Did anyone notice on the IML 2005 poster that the model they used is our own Troy Anicete, Mr. SF Leather 2003???

Saturday, May 28

The 15 Association weekly play party at that "secret" location. For invite, call 673-0452 or surf to www.the15association.com.

Drilling for gold

by John F. Karr

Two new movies from Titan Media are good examples of the company's ability to take a standard theme and make it play some nifty sexual variations. These setups are employed freshly enough to avoid cliché, and never interfere with the man-to-man heat that is the steamy Titan trademark.

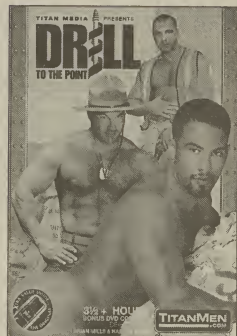
Drill uses a power tool as the starting point for three of its scenes, while a fourth scene's drill is the paces of a wrestling match that starts with humiliation, segues to challenge, and ends with conquest. Sure, *Drill* has the expected scene in a dentist's office, where the patient does not need to be asked to open wide, as well as a workroom scene for carpenters whose heavy tool-belts only momentarily conceal their permanently attached and even heavier tools. But the opening scene in a bank vault is a clever concoction, a table-turner full of major surprises and minor kink.



Karnal Knowledge

The cast members are either leading men — sturdy Tyler Boots, dreamboat Miguel Leonn, and Victor Rios, whose inky black goatee surrounds lips that look like they need rimming — or massive hunks: thick clots of muscle PJ Dixon and Bo Knight, menacing hulk Joey Dino, he-man Todd Maxwell, and suavely solid Matthieu Costa. They make *Drill* a musclemen bonanza. In a category of his own is Joey Russo, a compact dynamo with a feral sexual hunger and, most impressively, a strikingly steely, stand-up cock that has some sort of nuclear fission going on inside. There's lotsa hairy chests among these guys, a fare dose of foreskin, and an all-pervading play-hard attitude.

Carpenters Maxwell and Costa construct a packing crate around PJ Dixon, and after drilling some holes in its sides, pack their cocks into both the orifices he crams up against the saliva-slopped wood.



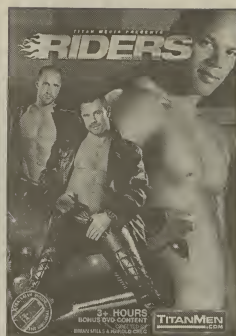
Bo Knight and Joey Dino wear nothing but a little jockstrap and a lotta muscle in their Brawny vs. Beast wrestling match. Dino dildes Knight's asshole for so long it'll drive you as nuts as it does Knight, and then he power-slams the surly bottom's butt until the cum bursts outa Bo's cock.

But getting back to that opening scene.

Thief Tyler Boots drills his way into the bank vault, only to find guard Victor Rios already tied up and gagged — and with a hard-on pointing sky high, as his balls are stretched down low by the dangling weight of a heavy gold ingot. Boots takes advantage of the situation, sucking the silky brown cock with admirable technique, and after Rios pushes his moist ass onto Boot's tongue, after Boots' cock creeps into Rios' grasping hole so painfully slow you'll feel every inch, the untied Rios sits on it, splitting his cocoa cheeks with the double-wide man-drill that Boots bangs up his butt. When Boots cum and cums, Rios spins him over, and rams his ass until Boots cums again with an even more copious load than he sprayed before. Rios chains Boots' wrists to the table, grabs the gold and slams the vault door shut.

Clamp club

There's little space left for me



to say much about *Riders*, but I liked it more. This one spins along on two-wheelers, with the boys dismounting bicycles and motorcycles to mount each other. There's less muscle here, but even more hardcore masculinity. Roughened beauty Cliff Rhodes, who fucked his way through everybody on the set in *ManPlay-019*, makes his feature debut here, with similar hard-thrusting effect. Shiny Kent Larson and lavishly meaty Matthieu Costa look spiffy in their racing leathers, and Costa looks even better when he strikes his to hang a pair of pony-clamps on his big, meaty tits. You know pony-clamps: the orange-handled squeezers they use on construction sites to hold sheet metal. Costa gets extra-hard and even laughs when Larson slaps those tit-tuggers.

In an appropriately grungy bunker in the Marin headlands, Ben Jakks and Joey Russo provide a sleazy, all-star bout for the movie's finale. Jakks goes crazy over Russo's famously galvanized cock, and both guys cum twice — first, when the rimming, jacking and sucking is just too exciting, and again, when Jakks plugs Russo's sweet little exhaust pipe 'til the spunk flies.

My advice? Stop sniffing your neighbor's bicycle seat, and hop on to *Riders*. Both movies were directed by the sure-handed Brian Mills and Harold Greg, and both offer over three hours of content, with the Special Features that are unique to Titan really boosting the bang-for-your-buck factor. ▼

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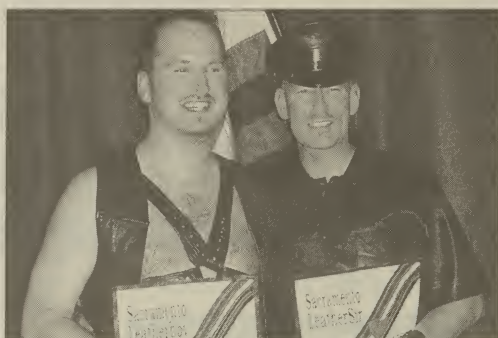
tional Leather Sir and boy have been chosen with city contests and one regional already. Last Saturday night, the Sacramento Leather Sir/boy competition was held at the Bolt Bar and Mike Kelly emerged as the Leather Sir and Darryl Strohl is the Sacramento Leather boy. They advance to the Northern California Leather Sir/boy competition later this year.

Catching up

Who knows how rumors get started? Be advised that the Leather/Levi Weekend ("Twisted Summer Camp") the weekend of Aug. 11-14 is not sold out. For info: www.leatherlewi.org.

The Leather Archives & Museum offers some 200 duplicates of leather event posters between May 1st and May 15th with \$2.00 minimum bids. If you're interested, click on www.fetishauctioneer.com or call (773) 761-9200.

Folsom Street Events, producers of the Dore Alley Fair and the Folsom Street Fair, are now accepting submissions for FSE



On their way to competing at the Northern California Leather Sir/boy competition later this year: Sacramento Leather boy Darryl Strohl and Sacramento Leather Sir Mike Kelly. They were chosen at the Bolt Bar in Sacramento last Saturday night, May 7.

poster art. August 15 is the deadline; the Finalists will be picked on September 12 and the artists' work will be on display at the Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, September 25. The winners will be announced on October 17 and the prizes awarded on November 2. For more info go to fse-pr@folsomstreetevents.org.

The Lexington Lyons, Lexington,

KY, have published a cookbook for \$15, *A Matter of Taste*, subtitled "Feast from the Lyons' Den". It's 193 pages of delectable delights. To place an order or get information, send an Email to: Lthrbearcwy@wmconnect.com.

See you next week! Until then, keep living, loving, laughing and volunteering — just do it in leather! ▼

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photo (c) David Morgan

Pacific passion and paradise on Polk

Kimo's has had a long history at the corner of Polk & Pine

by Mark des Jardins
and Mike Sher

Pacific Island pride and passion came to San Francisco in 1967 along with the hippies and the Haight-Ashbury Summer of Love, in the person of Kimo Cochran. In 1977, he opened his bar and nightclub Kimo's on the southwest corner of Polk & Pine. Kimo's is now the oldest same-owner, same-location gay bar in San Francisco.

Early years were festive, with bartenders all in Hawaiian-print short-sleeve shirts in the two-story bar. The second bar upstairs, much smaller than the principal downstairs street-level one, would rarely be used during the early years. But the two-story building was always a prime piece of real estate, each floor fronted with tall glass in sections four feet wide, paneling around the outside walls of both floors, with rich, natural-wood bordering.

Craig Roady was on bartending staff when the bar opened. Kimo's lover for over 18 years, Craig was a handsome young man with blonde-tinted hair, looks to die for, and a killer smile. Both his parents are still alive, living in Oregon. Something unexpected happened amid the early years of happiness, though: AIDS. The bar lost Craig and many others to AIDS, both staff and patrons. Over the years, Kimo admits he's lost 30 employees to AIDS. A thoughtful and generous man, he's added their names to the AIDS Grove in Golden Gate Park at \$1,000 each.

Kimo's background is as an entertainer. His one-man Hawaiian revue played Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, Hawaii and the Bahamas.

A 37-year transplant from Hawaii with the personal touch, Kimo hires all his employees. His current manager, Charlie (last name withheld at his request), represents the high caliber of integrity and frankness demanded of all employees, although Kimo likes to keep his eye on the business.

The bar on the second floor is round and much smaller than the main downstairs bar. The street-level bar is a 3-sided rectangle, some 20 ft. long, with the right-angle, Pine Street side spanning eight feet into the bar to the back wall. Opposite this, another 4-ft. extension runs in front of their unlocked bathroom. A footrest has been added to the bar, and some 15 barstools surround it, a small bar by some standards. An Internet jukebox is available, and between the jukebox and rest-room is a board that lists "today's bartenders," with names or initials entered. Above the jukebox, a 25-inch TV monitor allows patrons to view popular football and other games. But no one will admit for publication to a betting pool on the games. A small sign states the maximum room-capacity is 49 persons.

Across from the main bar, large, clear windows let the Polk curbside world be watched as it passes. Bar-shelving with barstools hugs the ground-floor windows. Patrons can sit quietly and watch a remarkable panorama of activity. With a covered bus stop for the 19 Polk directly in front of the bar, pedestrians come and go, with worries or carefree activities. Many in the neighborhood are regular patrons of the Polk Street Station diner, on the corner across the street.

The window-bar shelf on Pine offers Kimo's only videogame. Between the Polk window



Pull up a barstool and watch the Polk St. world pass by Kimo's windows.

barstools and main bar, three high, round tables with two or more barstools finish off their

street-level space. At the main entrance at the corner, two large doors swing outward to handle

most of the flow of traffic, and a small side door to the south next to a nail-and-hair salon offers a second door and access to a flight of stairs leading to the Penthouse Showroom on the second floor. Near this second doorway is their second restroom.

At one time, the second floor was a popular disco. It remained that for a couple of years, then went into drag shows. Two years ago, live bands began being offered, sometimes seven nights a week. Because of surrounding residential property, \$30,000-\$35,000 worth of soundproofing had to be added, explaining the gray, second-story windows as viewed from the street. Last year, members of Metallica played under a different name (they wanted a place to jam) and invited friends. Sam Penn, Ashley Judd and Robin Williams showed up.

Five years ago, Kimo retired to Guerneville with his partner of 21 years, Russell. Kimo keeps an eye on his business by way of a video-camera mounted on the ceiling overlooking the main bar. Up until recently, he watched on his webcam. But soon he will be able to see the operation via a 67-inch High-Definition TV system set up in his home. Surf's up with Kimo, that's for sure. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

in San Diego county. We can't say we're exactly surprised, Chris. But we must say he's looking like a million clams in his police chop-shot. We'd still take a joy-ride with him, but leave the Smirnoff's at home.

More frightening in its eerie rightness is the photo of Klein that appears in the *X&Y Files* column from *Hollywood Life*. This is the column which posits what the mating of one male celeb + one female celeb might produce. Klein is thus depicted as the love child of Keanu Reeves + k.d. lang. Despite the unlikelihood of that biological event, when you see it in the flesh, it could only be the truth.

Light shows

Heads up: the next Film Night

in the Park event is this Saturday night, May 14. SF's premiere outdoor film series, four FN in the P screenings in 2004 were attended by over 7,000 filmgoers. Films are presented free of charge on a giant outdoor screen in the park. Attendees are encouraged to picnic before screenings and are discouraged from bringing chairs.

Saturday night in Dolores Park features the 1959 classic *Some Like it Hot* on that outdoor screen. Presented by the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation, 5/14 at 8 p.m., Dolores at 19th St., SF, free. Info: (415) 465-3456 or www.sfntf.org.

Here's the rest of the 2005 Film Night in the Park schedule:

Saturday, 6/4, Cinema Paradiso, Washington Sq. Park, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, 8/27, North by Northwest, Union Square, 8 p.m.

Saturday, 9/10, Bullitt, Dolores Park, 8 p.m.

Saturday, 9/24, American Graffiti, Washington Sq. Park, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10/8, Tootsie, Dolores Park, 7:30 p.m.

But just between us girls, was last Sunday's paper not the gayest edition of the *NY Times* on record? Dozens of little gay & lesbian wedding-cake couples illustrated the *Sunday Styles* cover story, "Even in Gay Circles, the Women Want the Ring" (duh). Cute portrait of gay grooms Gaitley Mathews and James Stevenson in the "Weddings/Celebrations" pages. And to top it all off on a *très* gay Momma's Day, the "My Son, the Hairdresser" photo spread in the *Magazine*. Four hairdressers on fire, looking proud with their mamas, and honey, they all be gay-yay. ▼



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ARTS

Pussy galore

by Jim Piechota

Fred in Love by Felice Picano;
University of Wisconsin
Press/Terrace Books; \$14.95

In this diminutive, touching memoir, much-beloved and acclaimed writer Felice Picano shares fond memories of bohemian Greenwich Village and a succession of pet cats who were there to see the best parts of a novelist's vibrant youth in the 1960s.

Picano's history of pet felines, each named from his passionate love of classical music, begins with "Gustave," a slinky, antisocial Mahlerite, whom he agreed to babysit for a traveling friend, then ended up owning. Then there was "Frescobaldi," a dramatic champion-jumper colored a pretty silver, who, the author admits, "wasn't that different from a little boy."

Often frustrated by love ("I did have several boyfriends — which, let's face it, is hardly equal to having a good cat in one's life") and the often-meager lifestyle afforded by someone pursuing a writing career, Picano turned inward. Finally, much to the surprise of friends and family, he published his first novel and went on to receive literary recognition.

A restless 20-something living in Manhattan, Picano did some of his own "catting around" in the West Village when loneliness hovered; as did Frescobaldi, who quickly grew and was soon old enough to do some strenuous cat-fighting and romancing in the back alleys. Years later, Frescobaldi morphed into "Fred." ("He was big and handsome — and masculine.") He began spraying the apartment with



his scent, much to Picano's chagrin, and was finally paired with friend Zeb Freedman's cat-in-heat Jennie, who assumed the hilariously-described "receptive posture." A love affair blossomed, for Fred as well as for Picano, who retains a particularly devoted fondness for cats, both new acquaintances and those long since departed.

In the early part of the 21st century, Picano, "burnt-out by AIDS deaths" and "excruciatingly high rent," departed the "Fab Trash-ville" environs of the West Village to nestle himself into sunny Southern California's Hollywood Hills, where he now lives and is making friends with an extremely skittish black female cat who just happened to wander in.

In this tender, folksy valentine to New York's halcyon days, a must-read for pussycat-lovers everywhere, Picano serves up some euphoric catnip for his purring fan-base. ▼

Mondo solo

by Gregg Shapiro

The art of the solo disc is tricky. Does the artist put a mile or a molehill between self and band persona? Or just amp it up a bit? Amy Ray, of the Indigo Girls, for instance, lets her riot grrrl reign on her solo efforts.

Gwen Stefani of No Doubt starts out by exploring her dance-diva side with "What You Waiting For?," the opening track on *Love, Angel, Music, Baby* (Interscope), her highly anticipated solo album. I think I might have actually preferred more of this, but before you know it, she's teamed up with Eve for a bit of yid-hop on which she revises "If I Were a Rich Man" from *Fiddler on the Roof*, coming up with "Rich Girl." I can't even imagine Stefani playing Tevye's wife Golde in a high school production of *Fiddler*, but somehow she pulls this one off without a hitch. "Hollaback Girl" sounds like later No Doubt, but it has enough of a hip-hop vibe to be different. "Bubble Pop Electric" has a touch of the electro, and "The Real Thing" could also qualify as a new wave revival track (don't forget, Stefani and No Doubt did cover Talk Talk's "It's My Life"). Stefani's duet with Outkast's Andre 3000 displays yet another side. Unfortunately, too much variety leaves the final product overspiced.

Judging from the blue-eyed

soul mindset of the songs on *Beautiful Now* (Sweet Woo), Maria Christensen, former lead singer of 3rd Party, sounds like she is intent on leaving the dance-diva part of her past behind her. Christensen, who has penned hits for Jennifer Lopez and others, wrote or co-wrote all 10 tracks, the best of which is "Someone to Someone," which has the timeless quality of the best R&B tunes.

Clear across the spectrum, *Happiness in Magazines* (Astralwerks), the latest solo effort by Blur guitarist Graham Coxon, is a blazing affair that rocks hard right out of the gate. Nearly half of the songs are "performed by Graham Coxon," making this a true solo affair, with occasional piano and keyboard, strings, and vocal assistance from some guest musicians. Coxon sticks close to the Blur formula, creating a disc of modern rock songs that are at once familiar and new.

Donny Osmond released his first solo album when Gwen Stefani was two years old. More than 30 years later, after an inexplicably successful TV variety show in the '70s and a run as Joseph in a touring production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Osmond has once again returned to the recording studio. With the exception of opening track "Breeze On By" which sounds like it borrows from George Benson's "Breezin'," *What I Meant To Say* (Decca) is, how do I say this nicely, a crashing bore. ▼

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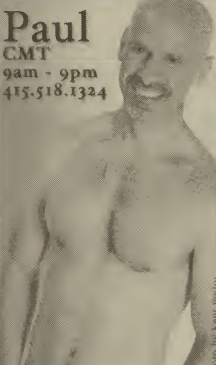
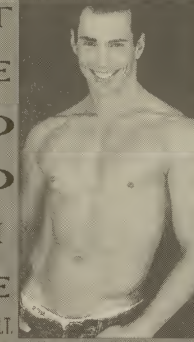



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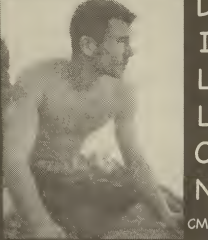
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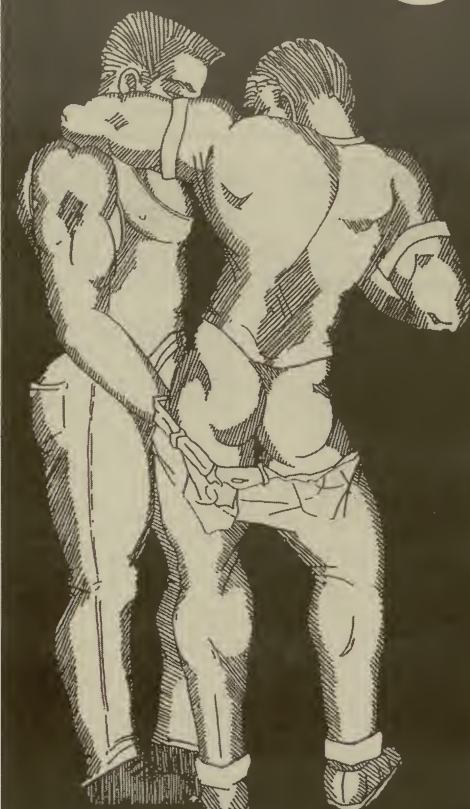
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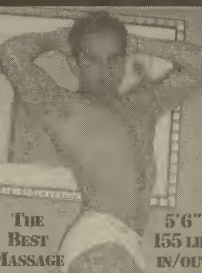
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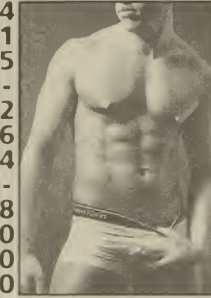
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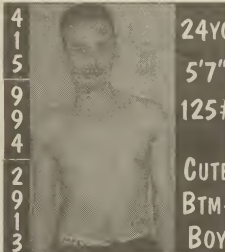
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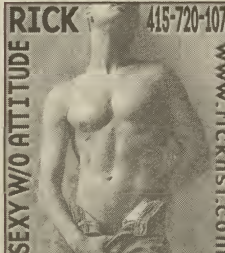
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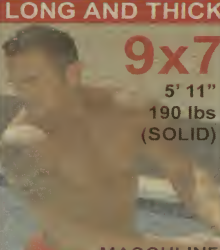
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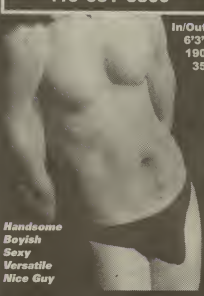
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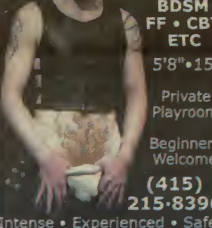
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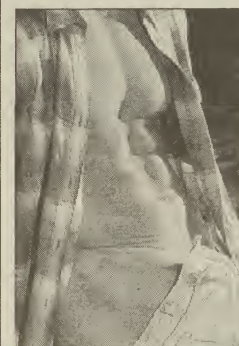
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PARTING GLANCE

Thos. (?) Mulatto Army Brat!
I Would Taste Again The Rapture Two Years Ago In My Van In The Middle Of Dolores St. And In My Bed In Oakland. I'm Always Happy With The Best. ☎ 71540

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Tall Handsome Sexy Nature Lover
Kind, Easygoing, Playful, Masculine, Cheerful, Nice Smile Seeks Similar 25-50, Ongoing Passionate Foreplay! 6'2" 190lbs. Hairy, Dark Stash/Goatee, Blue Eyes, Shaved Head. Any Height/Race Thin Tightbodied. Oakland. ☎ 71543

Rimming Handball Partner
WM, Hairy, Lean-Athletic, 6', Shaved Head, 40s, Wants My Clean Horny Asshole Sucked, Massaged, Stretched. I Am Passionate, Decent, Healthy HIV+, You Be The Same. ☎ 71541

SEEKING ADVENTURE

French Maid
Mature Silk Party Medium Breasted French Maid Seeks Aggressive Endowed Top For Cockucking And Being Plowed. ☎ 71547

Throw My Legs Up!
I'm Asian With Nice Nipples And A Great Ass, Seeking Attractive Masculine Buffed White Top For A Hot Time. ☎ 71542

Submissive Bottom HIV+ ISO
Aggressive Dominant Top. Two Men, One Goal - Pleasure! ☎ 71548

Spank Your Butt
Hot, Masculine Top, 38, 5'11" 175#, Seeks Well Built Bottom With Nice Ass For Over The Knee Spanking, Role Playing And Plowing Your Ass. ☎ 71544

Tall Handsome Sexy Passionate
Outdoor Lover. Kind, Easygoing, Playful, Upbeat, Masculine, Nice Smile Sks. Similar 25-50, Ongoing Hot Sex! 6'2" 190lbs. Hairy, Dark Stash/Goatee, Shaved Head. Any Height/Race, Average, Tight/Thin Berkeley. ☎ 71537

Handsome Black Man Has Oral
Fetish For Other Well Hung, Horny Black Men. Let's Cum Together. ☎ 71538

"I Love 2 Things"
Large Mountain Swollen Puffy Nipples & Nice Round Bubble Butts. 18-35 Submissive, Passionate Males. 35-50 Must Be Buff Muscle Bound Body Builders. ☎ 71534

"Safe"
Aggressive, Dominant, Strong Black Muscle Male Of 50" Ch. Big 81/2"-9" And 71/2" Round Cock. 18-35 Latinos, Middle Easterns, Light Skinned Blacks, Asians, And Mixed Race. ☎ 71535

FETISHES

Guy For Jacuzzi & Gym Shower Photos
Swimmer Wants To Pose With Lots Of Other Naked Guys For Some Wet Photos Or Videos In The Pool, Gym Hot Tub, Or Communal Shower Room. Not Into Gay Sex. ☎ 71546

Mud Madness
45yo GWM, 5'11, 170 Seeking Men Into Mud Wrestling/Mud Baths/Mud Massage Backyard Mud Pit Or Will Come To You. ☎ 71539

LESBIAN

Partner Search
Working-Class Single Monogamous Lesbian, Any Size, Race, Ability Between 30-40 Sought For LTR And Family. Cat Lover, Bookworm, Liberal, Honest, Comfort-Shoe Wearing Movie Buff Seeking Healthy Lifestyle. Out. Drug Free. ☎ 71545

OTHERS

Snap Me! (Please?)
Computer Access, No Digicam, Scanner, etc. Could Some Nice Person With Same Take Pix Of Guy, So I'll Have Some, Please? Email: hobbearbts@yahoo.com ☎ 71533



BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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E19

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4 XXX videos and modeling. Only 55+ men and their admirers. Good pay call mark 626-473-2765 or models-sf@older4me.com

E19

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E19

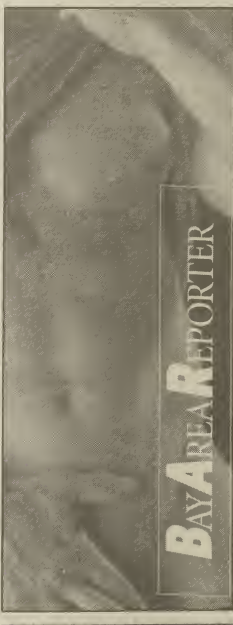
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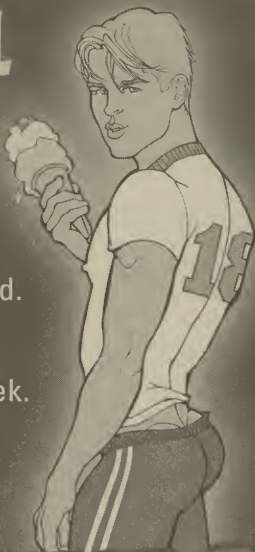
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Display advertising rates available upon request.

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All subsequent lines 4.00
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X-BOLD triple price

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- ☐ Money Order
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- ☐ MasterCard

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3-Digit Security Code _____ Expiration Date _____
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